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Real Clothes

by Hakamura Satoru

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Wingsofpeace.com

槇村さとる
MAKIMURA SATORU

Most of my shopping mistakes up to this point have been "shoes." I love pointe* shoes. I love figure skating shoes. I love Reebok. And so my shoe fetish continues unabatedly. The mistake I make most often with pumps is that I end up thinking in the shop, "It's alright if they are somewhat tight!" Now, as my personal rule, I've chosen "Heels up to 7.5 cm! Not pumps, but something with an opening!"

(T/N: Ballet dancers wear pointe shoes when dancing *en pointe* on the tips of their toes.)

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Real Clothes 1

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YOU QUEEN'S COMICS

Real Clothes リアル・クローズ 1

槇村さとる

集英社

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The 5th year of employment. A sudden personnel change to "Ladies' Fashion Sales Floor." Amano Kinue (27 years old), standing at life's greatest turning point!!

In the consumer-competitive Shinjuku, Amano Kinue works on the futon sales department set up by "Echizenya," a major department store. When she thinks, "Fashion is just something to decorate human skin," there's a sudden personnel change?! Wearing, working, and living at a workplace with a fine-up of crooked people, Kikune's true value will be questioned!!

Real Clothes 1

Makimura Satoru

Cover Art / Makimura Satoru
Cover Design / Shinkami Hiroshi

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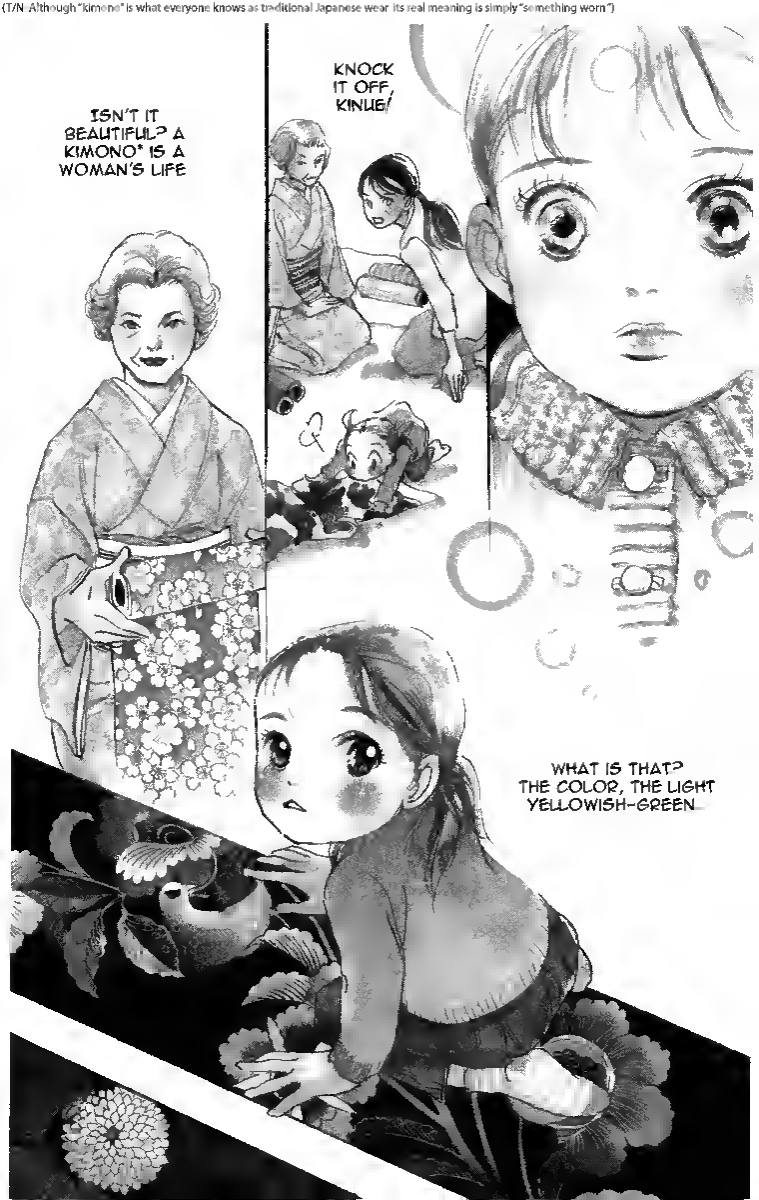
Life Flaws – It's Okay Even Falling Down Sometimes –
Shueisha Tankobon
imagine Notebook
Are You Now Happy? Co-author Kim Myong Gan

(T/N: Although "kimono" is what everyone knows as traditional Japanese wear its real meaning is simply "something worn")

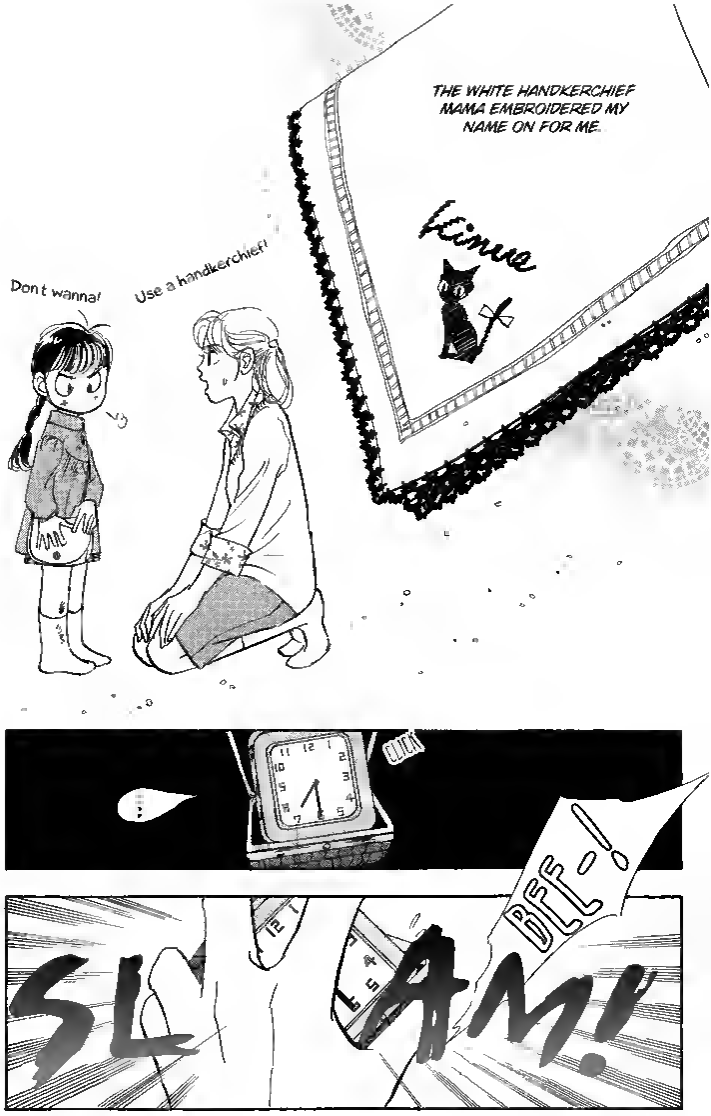


Chapter 1

Real Clothes

(T/N: Shichi-Go-San refers to the rites-of-passage children celebrate at ages 3, 5, and 7, marking their quick growth out of younger childhood. Obaa-chan is a very familiar term for one's grandmother.)

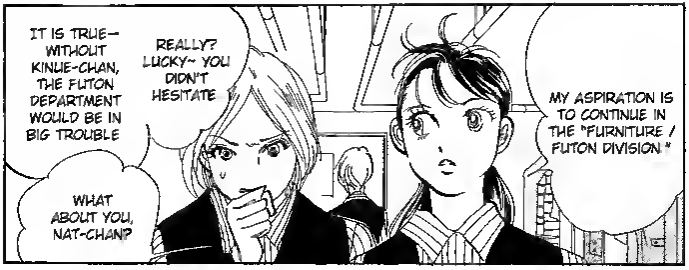
THE DIGNIFIED~ SHICHI-GO-SAN* KIMONO MADE FOR ME BY MY OBAA-CHAN* WITH A WEAKNESS FOR CLOTHES.
I WANT A RED ONE~
THE KINDER-GARTEN UNIFORM OF STIFF CLOTH AND TIGHT BANDS ON THE WRISTS.
THE OUTFIT FOR RAINY DAYS THAT I LOVED.


THE WHITE HANDKERCHIEF MAMA EMBROIDERED MY NAME ON FOR ME.
Kimmie
Don't wanna!
Use a handkerchief!
QUICK
SLAM!
BE-!

7:30
GET UP.
SPRAY...

CLOCK IN.
GOOD MORNING.

I'LL SELL
AGAIN TODAY!!
LEAVE THE LOCKER ROOM
Amano
BANG!
M-CHIKU
'MORNING KINUE-CHAN. HEY, DID YOU SEND OUT YOUR "ASPIRATION"?
'MORNING— I SENT IT AWHILE AGO!


IT IS TRUE— WITHOUT KINUE-CHAN, THE FUTON DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE
REALLY? LUCKY~ YOU DIDN'T HESITATE
MY ASPIRATION IS TO CONTINUE IN THE "FURNITURE / FUTON DIVISION."
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NAT-CHAN?

IF IT'S YOUR ASPIRATION THEN WRITE IT
Ugh~!
GEEZ— I FEEL LIKE I'M ASKING A GUY ON A DATE WHEN I KNOW HE HATES ME
THIS IS MY THIRD YEAR WRITING IT, AFTER ALL~
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE GOING FOR "LADIES GROUP 3."

CREAK!
WARNING
Closing the iron doors
Seiso
PAT!
WRITE IT DOWN!
YUP— I WILL!

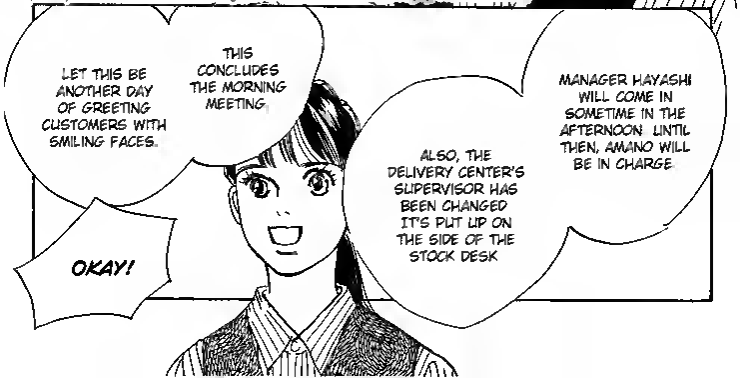
TODAY'S SALES GOAL IS 2,000,000 YEN*
(T/N: 2,000 000 yen is roughly $24,000 USD.)
IT RAINED YESTERDAY AND WE HAD A 10% DECREASE IN CUSTOMERS. TODAY IS SUPPOSED TO BE CLEAR SKIES. LET'S RECOVER THOSE LOST SALES
YES, MA'AM!

Real Clothes 1

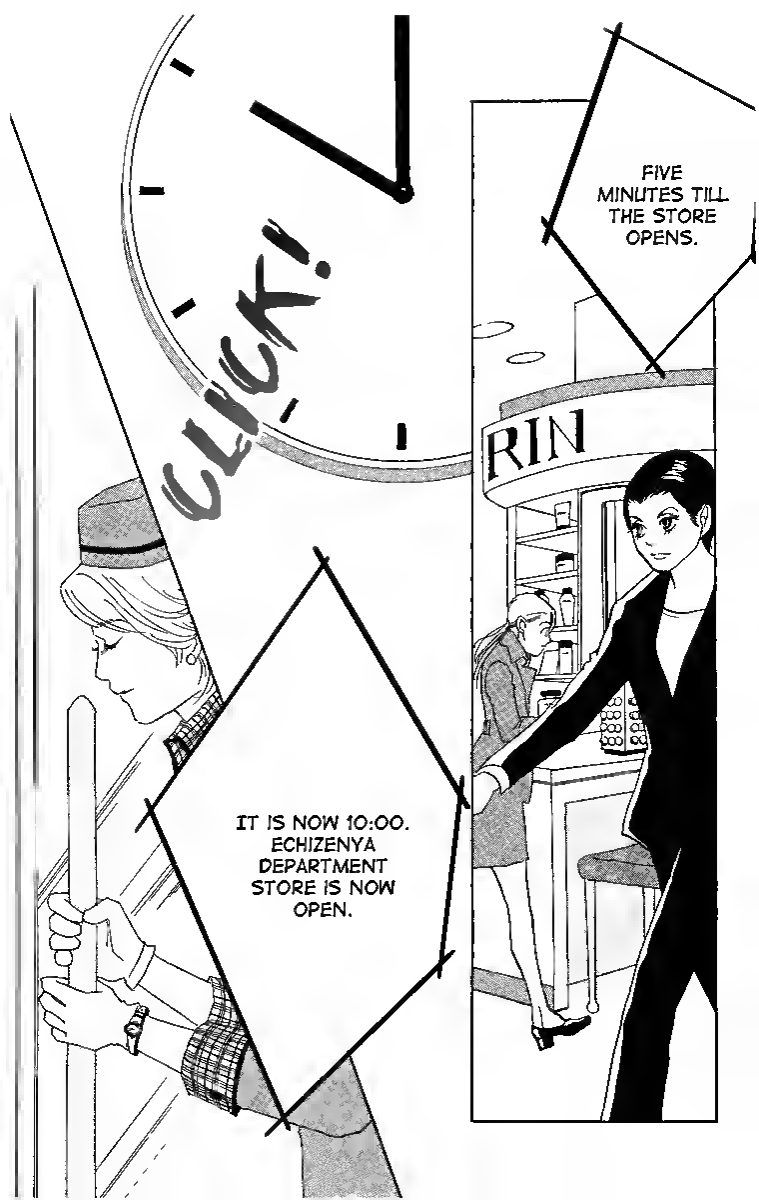
WE HAVE THE EXPLANATION OF THE NEW PRODUCT LINE FROM OUR SUPPLIER, TANI-SAN.
YES.
FROM FRANCE, THE MONCLER BRAND WOOL MATTRESS PAD
IT'S 27,000 YEN ITS BEST FEATURE IS THE DIFFICULTY TO DECREASE ITS LARGE VOLUME OF WOOL

THE SALES KEYWORD FOR OUR CUSTOMERS IS "THE CHOSEN SHEEP."
IF YOU USE IT WITH A JAPANESE FUTON, TATAMI MAT OR A BED THAT'S TOO HARD, IT'S OUTSTANDING.

(T/N: A phrase said to those who work together or need a favor. It means "roughly," "Please work well.")


MANAGER HAYASHI WILL COME IN SOMETIME IN THE AFTERNOON. UNTIL THEN, AMANO WILL BE IN CHARGE.
ALSO, THE DELIVERY CENTER'S SUPERVISOR HAS BEEN CHANGED. IT'S PUT UP ON THE SIDE OF THE STOCK DESK.
THIS CONCLUDES THE MORNING MEETING.
LET THIS BE ANOTHER DAY OF GREETING CUSTOMERS WITH SMILING FACES.
OKAY!

ALRIGHT!
ICHIMURA-SAN
YES?
PLEASE PULL OUT THE PRODUCTS EARLY.
START EARLY, OKAY? SINCE YOU'RE SO SLOW, OKAY?
KIUCHI-SAN, THANK YOU FOR HANDLING THE CUSTOMER WITH THE JAPANESE FUTON YESTERDAY— YOU SAVED ME
OF COURSE
THE REGISTER IS READY.
RUB
RUB
FINGERPRINTS!


CLICK!
FIVE MINUTES TILL THE STORE OPENS.
RIN
IT IS NOW 10:00. ECHIZENYA DEPARTMENT STORE IS NOW OPEN.

(T/N: A common way for employees to welcome customers. literally "welcome")

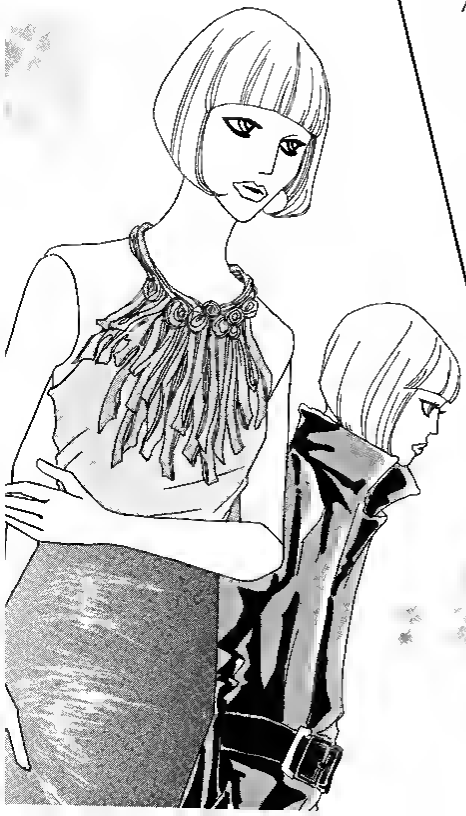
AN ULTRA-FINE MODEL AND FASHION.

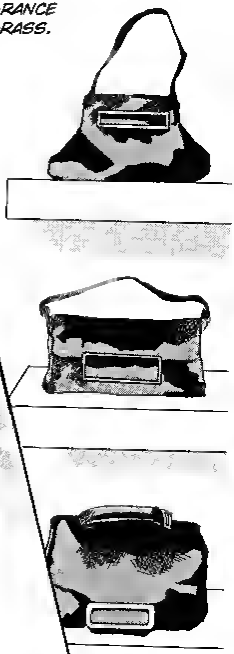
A DEPARTMENT STORE—

A THEME PARK OF LUXURY AND REFINEMENT.

THE ENTRANCE IS A SPARKLE OF MARBLE AND GLASS.

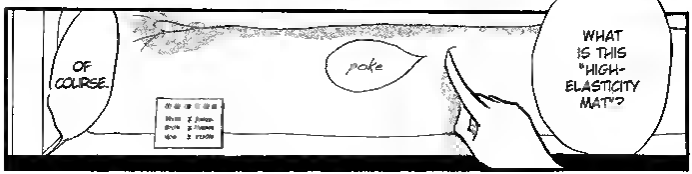
COSMETICS AND THE FRAGRANCE OF GRASS.





A DREAM LIFESTYLE THAT'S BEEN LINED UP BEAUTIFULLY.
WHAT KIND OF TOMORROW IS THE CUSTOMER IMAGINING WHILE THEY TOUCH THESE THINGS?

YES?
UM~

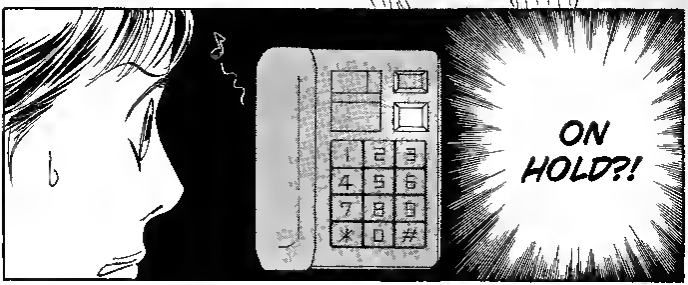

WHAT IS THIS "HIGH-ELASTICITY MAT"?
poke
OF COURSE.

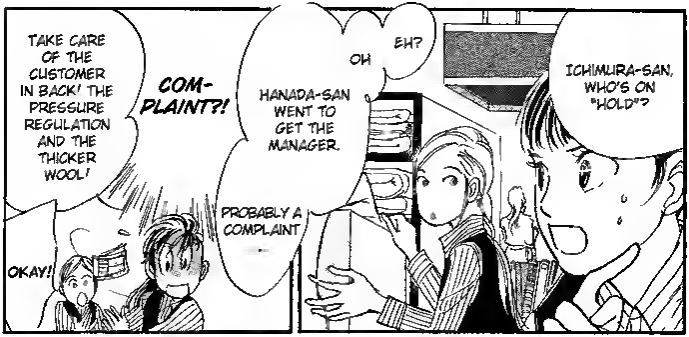
I CAN'T SLEEP AND I FEEL LIKE I'M LEFT WITH A TIRED BACK. AH... YES. IT'S NOT HARDENED.
YEAH.
DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD USE IT YOURSELF?
MAYBE THIS IS IT. BUT IF YOU MESS UP A FUTON, YOU KNOW...
I KNOW. YOU CAN'T THROW IT AWAY EASILY.
IN CONTRAST WITH LOW-ELASTICITY, WHICH ABSORBS WEIGHT,
HIGH-ELASTICITY PUSHES UP FIRMLY FROM THE BOTTOM.
ha ha
IT'S RECOMMENDED FOR MUSCULAR PEOPLE OR PLUS-SIZED PEOPLE
"PLUS-SIZED"

THE BASE IS A POLYURETHANE SPRING THE BOARD AS IT IS OR A TATAMI OR SOMETHING THE FUTON WOULD BE HIGH-ELASTICITY, LOW-ELASTICITY, WOOL OR COTTON THE PAD WOULD BE A PRESSURE-RESISTANT DISTRIBUTOR OR SOMETHING LINEN..
THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS
This is the base mat
UM, MAY I MAKE A SUGGESTION?
HOW ABOUT PILING ON THINNER ONES?
PIL.. ING?
IT'S RECOMMENDED FOR PEOPLE WHO VALUE GOOD, QUALITY SLEEP
IN THE END, YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR OWN FAVORITE SLEEPING POSITION
YOU COORDINATE IT THE SAME WAY YOU WOULD WESTERN CLOTHES— IN THE SENSE OF PILING ON LAYERS
OF COURSE!
MAYBE I'LL LOOK FOR THAT. WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
~uuuuh

Hm~
How is it?
A hardened linen pad
A spring base and a high-elasticity mat
Hm~.
MM!
WELL THEN, I'LL TAKE THIS COMBINATION.
THAT'S TRUE.
FIRST, TRY SLEEPING WITHOUT IT. AND IF IT IS NECESSARY, PLEASE BUY THE EXTRA. IT'S STANDARD PROCEDURE, SO IT'S ALRIGHT.
MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO BUY THIS BASE MAT TOO.
THIS IS A COMBINATION OF A WOOL FUTON AND A PRESSURE REGULATION PAD.
YOU CAN TELL I LIKE IT?
YOUR BROW SUDDENLY CLEARED UP. IT'S PROOF YOUR BODY IS RELAXED.
HA HA HA!

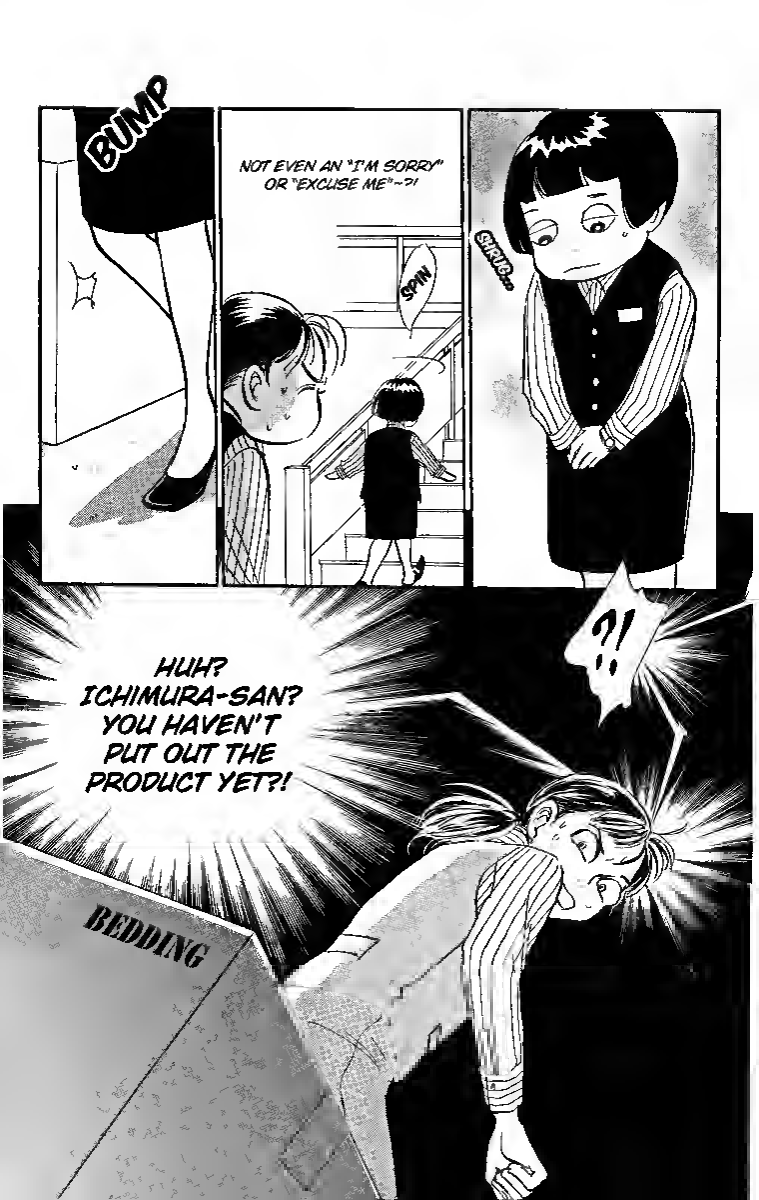
GASP!
TODAY IS OFF TO A GOOD START!!
SURE
I'LL BRING THE SALES RECEIPT
A SALE!!

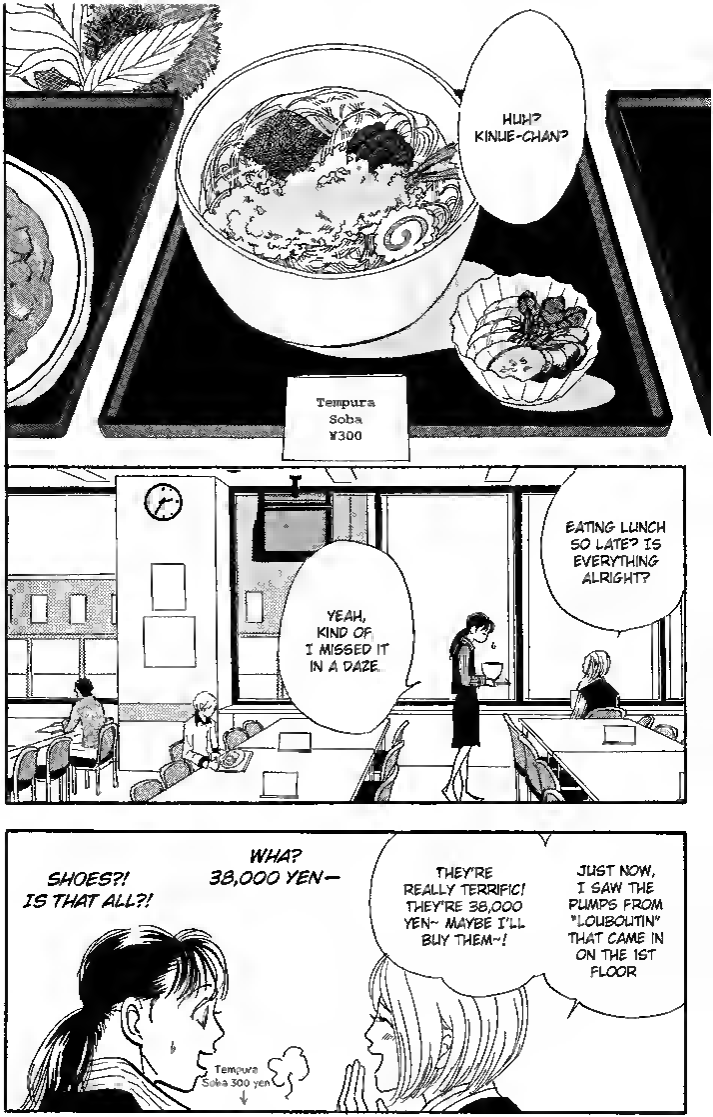

ON HOLD?!


TAKE CARE OF THE CUSTOMER IN BACK! THE PRESSURE REGULATION AND THE THICKER WOOL!
COM-PLAINT?!
OKAY!
EH?
OH
HANADA-SAN WENT TO GET THE MANAGER.
PROBABLY A COMPLAINT
ICHIMURA-SAN, WHO'S ON "HOLD"?

CLICK!
ONTALE...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY I AM IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT MY NAME IS AMANO
HELLO, THANK...
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WAIT?!
IT HASN'T BEEN DELIVERED! IT'S NOT INCLUDED! THE SHEETS OR THE PILLOWCASE!!
THAT IS OUR MISTAKE.
YES! OF COURSE, IT IS OUR MISTAKE.
I HAVE JUST SEEN THE SALES SLIP.
YES!
YES!

DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES~
I WENT TO LOOK FOR THE MANAGER...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, SO PASS IT TO ME, OKAY? IT'S BETTER THAN MAKING THE CLAIMANT WAIT
DON'T GET MAD, DON'T GET MAD!
BUT~ YOU WERE TOTALLY EXCITED AND BUSY WITH A CUSTOMER...
THE ATTITUDE AND LANGUAGE USED IN MANAGING COMPLAINTS IS WHAT DETERMINES THE REPUTATION OF OUR SALES FLOOR.
PLEASE DON'T PUT THEM ON HOLD EVEN BY MISTAKE
HARMONY!!
PLEASE READ THE "COMPLAINT MANUAL."
IF YOU CAUSE ANIMOSITY WITH THE CONTRACTED SALESCLERKS, YOU WON'T HOLD THE SALES FLOOR.
HARMONY.

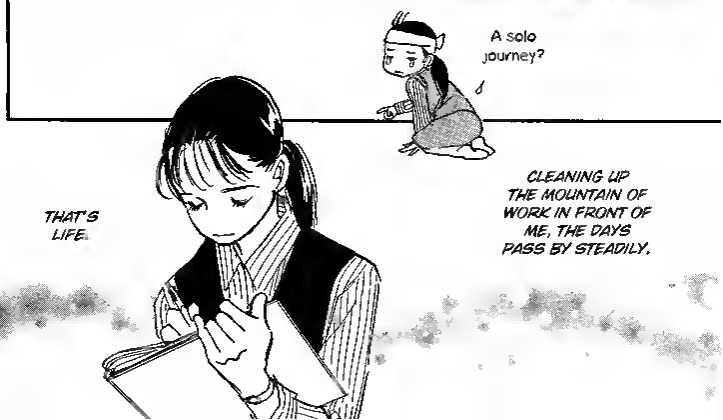

BUMP
NOT EVEN AN "I'M SORRY" OR "EXCUSE ME"~?!
SPIN
SHRUG...
?!
HUH? ICHIMURA-SAN? YOU HAVEN'T PUT OUT THE PRODUCT YET?!
BEDDING


HUH? KINUE-CHAN?
Tempura Soba ¥300
EATING LUNCH SO LATE? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YEAH, KIND OF. I MISSED IT IN A DAZE.
JUST NOW, I SAW THE PUMPS FROM "LOUBOUTIN" THAT CAME IN ON THE 1ST FLOOR
THEY'RE REALLY TERRIFIC! THEY'RE 38,000 YEN~ MAYBE I'LL BUY THEM~!
WHA? 38,000 YEN—
SHOES?! IS THAT ALL?!
Tempura Soba 300 yen

FORGET IT
I CAN'T AFFORD IT AND IT'LL JUST MAKE ME SAD
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THEM ON TOO, AMANO-SAN?
LUCKY~
EH? NACCHI, YOU'RE GONNA BUY THEM? THE LOUBOUTIN SHOES?
WHY DO WOMEN WANT TO BUY SO MUCH?
The bags go up to 30 000 yen
That 13,000 yen coat you know
NEW SHOES OR PRETTY CLOTHES ..
"TEE-HEE-HEE, EVERYONE'S SO CUTE~."
MY NET INCOME IS 230,000 YEN, SO 38,000 YEN SHOES ARE BEYOND IMAGINING!!

THIS IS THE THIRD DAY I'VE BEEN CONSTIPATED— IT HURTS
EH~ IT'S FINE UNTIL THE TENTH DAY
SQUEAK!
ALRIGHT! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK A BIT MORE! LET'S GO CHEER EVERYONE ELSE ON!
VU VU VU
DRAAAAA!!!

SALES
JUST A BIT MORE—
EVERYONE! JUST ONE MORE STEP AND WE CROSS THE FINISH LINE!
FUTON
SALES

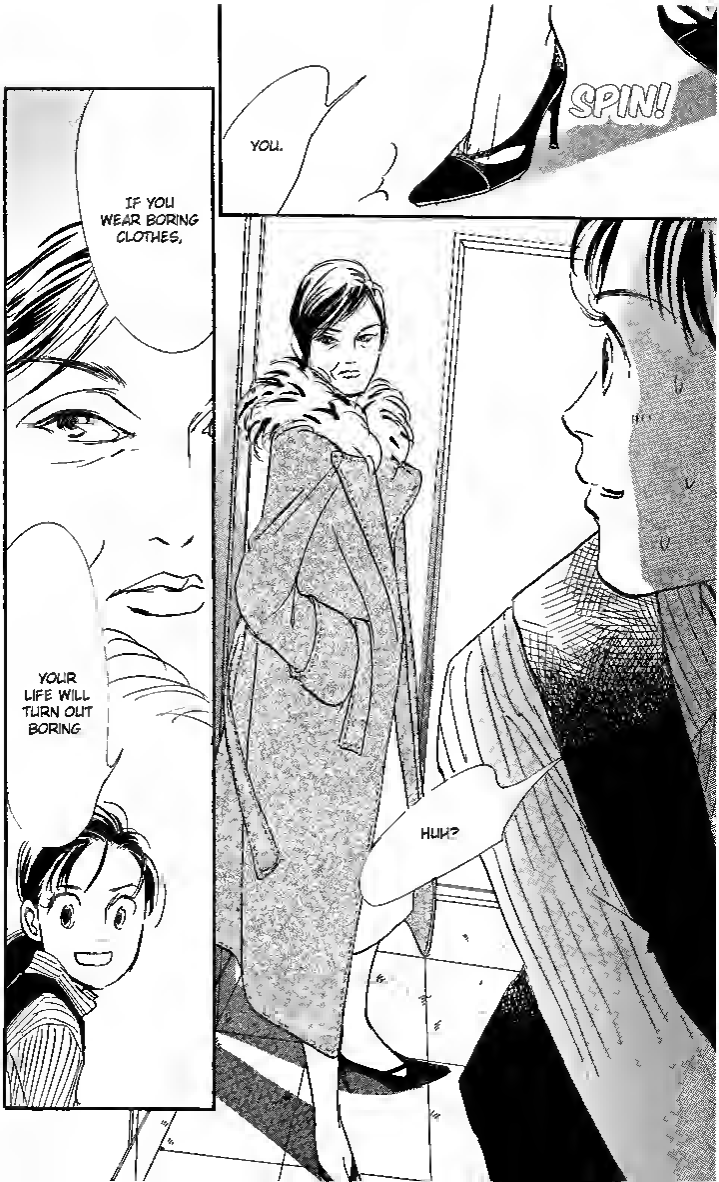

A solo journey?
CLEANING UP THE MOUNTAIN OF WORK IN FRONT OF ME, THE DAYS PASS BY STEADILY.
THAT'S LIFE.

(T/N: A phrase said to one who has completed a job or done some work.)

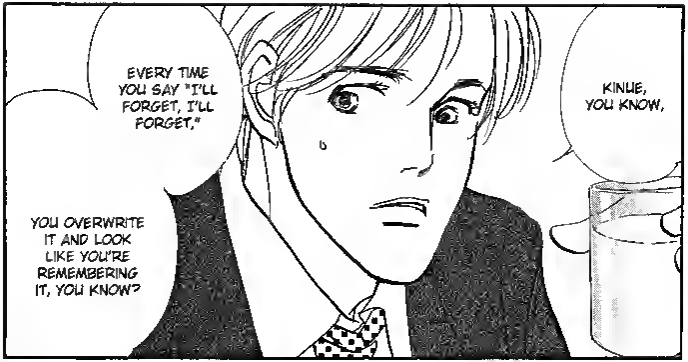
IS THERE SOMETHING IN MY LOCKER?
LIM!
WHY—?
Amano

Real Clothes 1

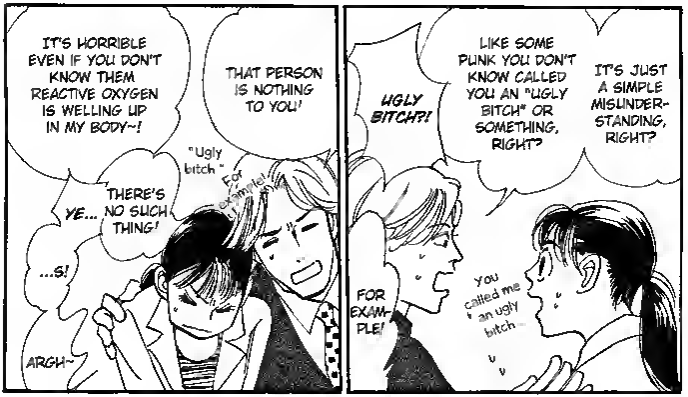
DID I FORGET TO LOCK IT?!
I'M SORRY I MADE A MISTAKE.
WHY IS IT OPEN?
BRUSH!
WOOOAH~!
Innerwear about 30,000 yen
Skirt about 70 000 yen
Pumps about 38 000 yen
Coat about 24 000 yen
Watch about 1 000 000 yen
Bag about 200 000 yen
Ring about 1 000 000 yen


SPIN!
YOU.
IF YOU WEAR BORING CLOTHES,
YOUR LIFE WILL TURN OUT BORING
HUH?

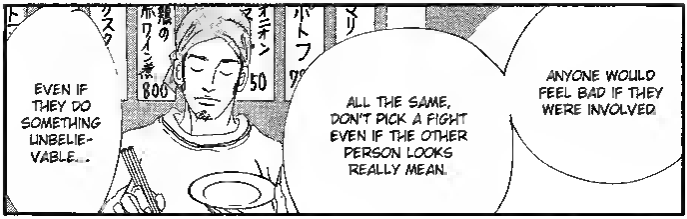
PARDON?
SHAKE
CLINK
CLONK
SHAKE
SHAKING WORDS
SLASHER
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SHAKE
ANOTHER ROUND!!
I'M SO WORKED UP~! I'M GOING TO FORGET ABOUT IT~!
AH~ GEEZ.
エデン
更科

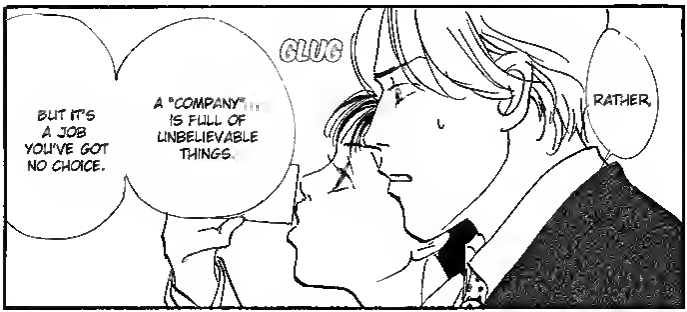

EVERY TIME YOU SAY "I'LL FORGET, I'LL FORGET,"
KINUE, YOU KNOW,
YOU OVERWRITE IT AND LOOK LIKE YOU'RE REMEMBERING IT, YOU KNOW?

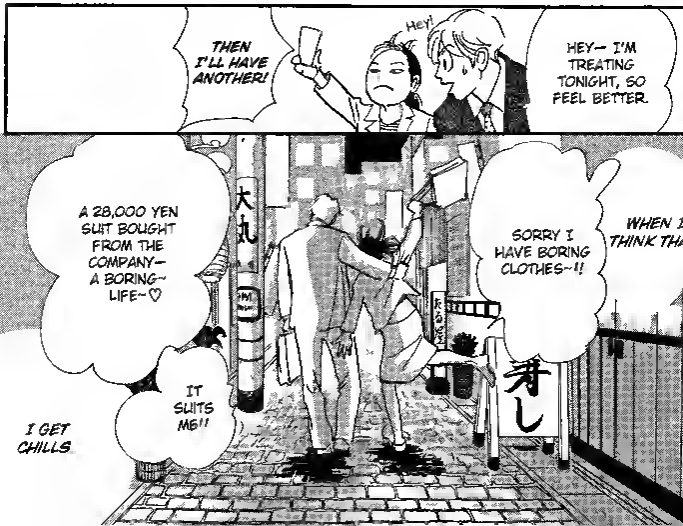
I HATE IT!
TAKE IT EASY.
I STIR UP MY OWN EMOTIONS!
UGH, JUST LIKE THAT!
ER--
GEEZ!


IT'S HORRIBLE EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW THEM REACTIVE OXYGEN IS WELLING UP IN MY BODY~!
THAT PERSON IS NOTHING TO YOU!
"Ugly bitch" For example!
YE...
THERE'S NO SUCH THING!
...S!
ARGH~
UGLY BITCH?!
LIKE SOME PUNK YOU DON'T KNOW CALLED YOU AN "UGLY BITCH" OR SOMETHING, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST A SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING, RIGHT?
FOR EXAMPLE!
You called me "an ugly bitch"...

Real Clothes 1


EVEN IF THEY DO SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE...
ALL THE SAME, DON'T PICK A FIGHT EVEN IF THE OTHER PERSON LOOKS REALLY MEAN.
ANYONE WOULD FEEL BAD IF THEY WERE INVOLVED.

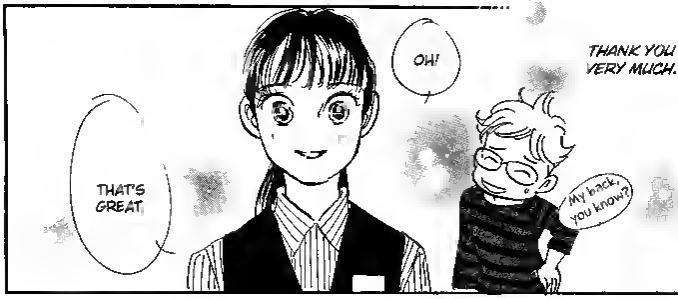


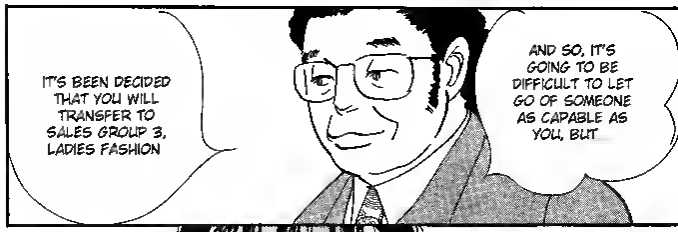

THEN I'LL HAVE ANOTHER!
Hey!
HEY— I'M TREATING TONIGHT, SO FEEL BETTER.
A 28,000 YEN SUIT BOUGHT FROM THE COMPANY— A BORING~ LIFE~♡
SORRY I HAVE BORING CLOTHES~!!
WHEN I THINK THAT,
IT SUITS ME!!
I GET CHILLS.

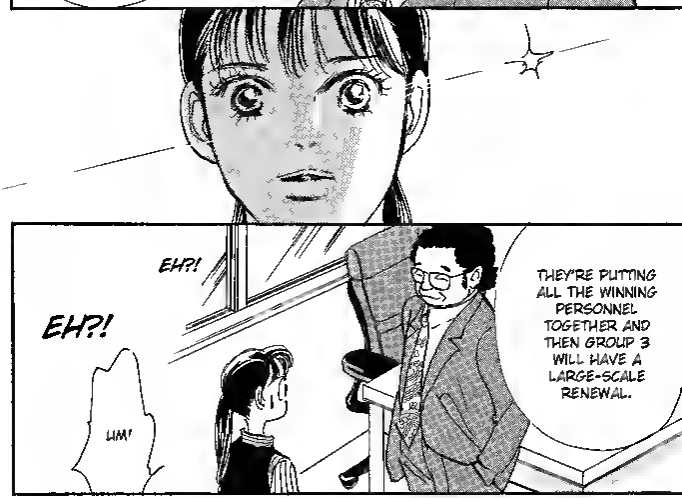
IT'S NOT MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT IF I TAKE THEM OFF. IT'S JUST A MOUNTAIN OF CLOTH.
IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
AN ANGRY KINUE IS NICE
YOU'RE LIKE A BEAST
UHN?

WHAT'S BETWEEN SKIN AND SKIN...
Blissh?
BLISSH ISH IN THE HEART
EEK~ SAAAAVE MEH!
GROWL
GRR
GRR
UHN!
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU FASHION GRANNY!!

IT'S ALRIGHT.
THERE WAS A THANK YOU CALL FROM THE CUSTOMER SERVICE COUNTER.
"I WAS TREATED KINDLY BY SOMEONE NAMED AMANO-SAN FROM THE FUTON SALES DEPARTMENT.
"SHE LISTENED WITH ALL HER HEART TO MY SITUATION AND IMAGINED HERSELF IN MY SHOES.
"OFFERED RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ADVICE ABOUT LUXURY GOODS, FOLLOWED ME WITH GREAT PATIENCE, AND TOLD ME NOT TO BUY SOMETHING USELESS."
"THANKS TO HER, I'M SLEEPING PROPERLY EVERY DAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."
Sales Group 5
EVEN THIS KIND OF LIFE IS "BLISS"! SERVES YOU RIGHT!


THAT'S GREAT.
OH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
MY BACK, YOU KNOW?

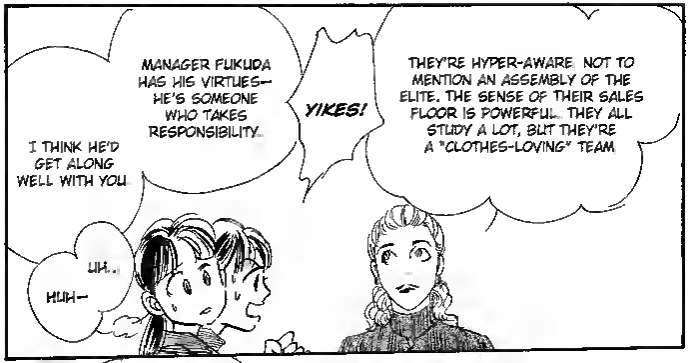

IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU WILL TRANSFER TO SALES GROUP 3, LADIES FASHION
AND SO, IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO LET GO OF SOMEONE AS CAPABLE AS YOU, BUT


EH?!
EH?!
UM!
THEY'RE PUTTING ALL THE WINNING PERSONNEL TOGETHER AND THEN GROUP 3 WILL HAVE A LARGE-SCALE RENEWAL.

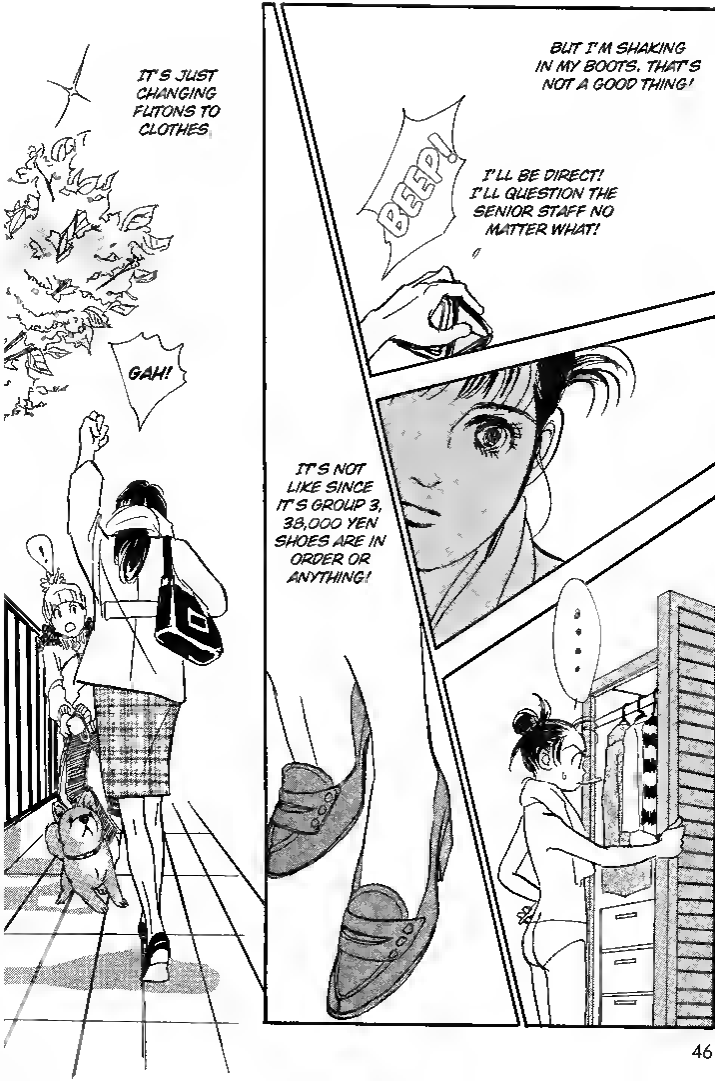
I LOVE FUTONS, BUT—
IT'S NOT THAT—
MANAGER~!!
pat
SQUEAK
SIGH~
WHAT ABOUT... MY HOPES?!
GROUP 3 IS AN ELITE COURSE TO LEADING POSITIONS IT'LL SUBSTANTIALLY RAISE YOUR STATUS. IF IT'S YOU, YOU'LL DO ALRIGHT!
I RECOMMENDED THAT EVEN IF HE DOESN'T SEE YOU, "THIS IS A GOOD GIRL AND A HARD WORKER."
THE HEAD OF GROUP 3 IS MY COLLEAGUE, FUKUDA
IT'S OKAY!

WHOA!
THEY SAID YOU'LL BE IN LADIES GROUP 3?!
CONGRATULATIONS, AMANO.
NAT-CHAN.
YOU KNOW— WHATEVER THE DEPARTMENT, IT'S ALL THE SAME!
NO WAY!
IT'S DIFFERENT!
AMAZING!
YOU'VE GOT IT MADE.
NO—
YOU'RE SO LUCKY— LADIES' FASHION.
WHY...
GO HAVE A BLAST!! TRY ON THE CLOTHES— TRY THEM!

A COMPANY IS FULL OF UNBELIEVABLE THINGS.
YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
ERM--
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE SEND-OFF PARTY!
BUT...
CLOTHES?!
WHAT ARE "CLOTHES"?! THERE'S NO REALITY IN IT!
THE INNER WORKINGS OF GROUP 3?
YEAH. WILL YOU LET ME ASK YOU ABOUT STUFF?


MANAGER FUKUDA HAS HIS VIRTUES--HE'S SOMEONE WHO TAKES RESPONSIBILITY.
I THINK HE'D GET ALONG WELL WITH YOU.
YIKES!
THEY'RE HYPER-AWARE. NOT TO MENTION AN ASSEMBLY OF THE ELITE. THE SENSE OF THEIR SALES FLOOR IS POWERFUL. THEY ALL STUDY A LOT, BUT THEY'RE A "CLOTHES-LOVING" TEAM.
UH...
HUH--

THAT'S REALLY TRUE. SELLING THEM IS A SHOCK.
BUT THEY DO SELL OUT.
THAT'S AMA-ZING!
IT'S TERRIBLE WHEN THE BUYER HAS BAD TASTE.
UH-HUH, UH-HUH.
UM...
MAYBE... THAT IT'S EASY TO SELL THINGS THAT ARE NECESSITIES OF DAILY LIFE.
TO THE POINT WHERE IF I LOOK AT GROUP 3, I THINK, "WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD I DO ABOUT ALL THOSE CLOTHES EVERY SEASON?"
SOMETHING WORRYING YOU?


IT'S JUST CHANGING FUTONS TO CLOTHES.
GAH!
IT'S NOT LIKE SINCE IT'S GROUP 3, 38,000 YEN SHOES ARE IN ORDER OR ANYTHING!
BEEP!
I'LL BE DIRECT! I'LL QUESTION THE SENIOR STAFF NO MATTER WHAT!
BUT I'M SHAKING IN MY BOOTS. THAT'S NOT A GOOD THING!
...

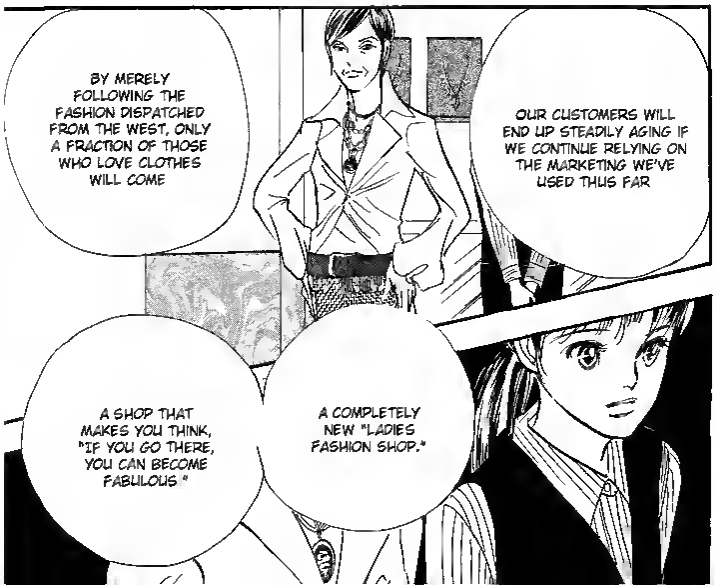
I'M AMANO KINUE, TRANSFERRED INTERNALLY FROM THE FURNITURE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE SEE ME IF YOU CAN'T GET RESTFUL SLEEP.
MY SPECIALTIES ARE SHOULDER AND NECK MASSAGES.
AH-HA-HA-HA...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT CLOTHES, SO PLEASE GIVE ME WORK, EVEN IF IT'S ODD JOBS.
I'LL SELL IT REGARDLESS!!
BOW!
YOROSHIKU ONEGAI SHIMASU.
CLANG!
CHATTER
CHATTER
LET'S SEE, AND ALSO—

CLA—NG!
CLA—NG!
THE EXTRAVAGANT MARBLE FLOOR OF LADIES GROUP 3 IS RINGING.
OVER HERE
THE SOUND OF THE HEELS OF NEEDLE-THIN PUMPS...
SHAKE!
CLA—NG!

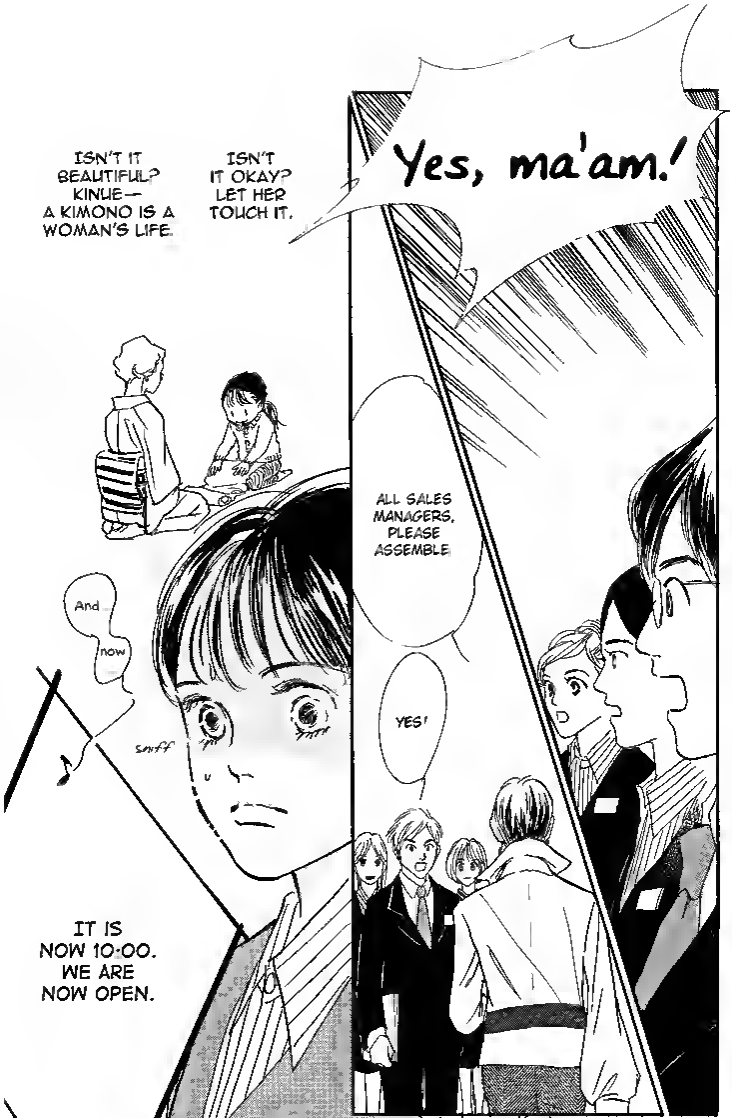
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYONE.
THIS TIME...
SHE HAS ASSUMED THE POST OF GENERAL MANAGER OF LADIES FASHION
THE FASHION GRANNY!
I'M JINBO MIKI.
Good-bye~
WHAT ABOUT MANAGER FUKUDA?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!

AMONG THE CONSUMER-COMPETITIVE DEPARTMENT STORES IN THE SHINJUKU AREA, OUR COMPANY'S SALES RANKS SECOND ONLY TO "MATSUKOSHI"*.
IN ORDER TO SURPASS "MATSUKOSHI," WE WILL EXCEED OUR SALES BY 50% AND STRENGTHEN THE LADIES' FASHION DEPARTMENT. THAT IS MY MISSION.

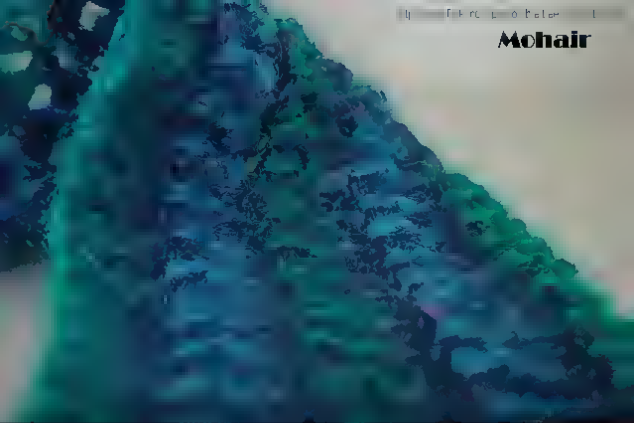
(T/N Matsukoshi is a play on a very successful Japanese department store 'Mitsukoshi')


BY MERELY FOLLOWING THE FASHION DISPATCHED FROM THE WEST, ONLY A FRACTION OF THOSE WHO LOVE CLOTHES WILL COME
OUR CUSTOMERS WILL END UP STEADILY AGING IF WE CONTINUE RELYING ON THE MARKETING WE'VE USED THUS FAR
A SHOP THAT MAKES YOU THINK, "IF YOU GO THERE, YOU CAN BECOME FABULOUS."
A COMPLETELY NEW "LADIES FASHION SHOP."

WE WILL TURN THIS INTO A COMPLETELY NEW SHOP, ONE LIKE NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN
gulp!
AC-KNOW-LEDGE
WINNING IN LADIES FASHION MEANS WINNING IN THE INDUSTRY.


ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL? KINUE— A KIMONO IS A WOMAN'S LIFE.
ISN'T IT OKAY? LET HER TOUCH IT.
Yes, ma'am!
ALL SALES MANAGERS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE.
YES!
And now
sniff
IT IS NOW 10:00. WE ARE NOW OPEN.

◆ End of Chapter 1 ◆



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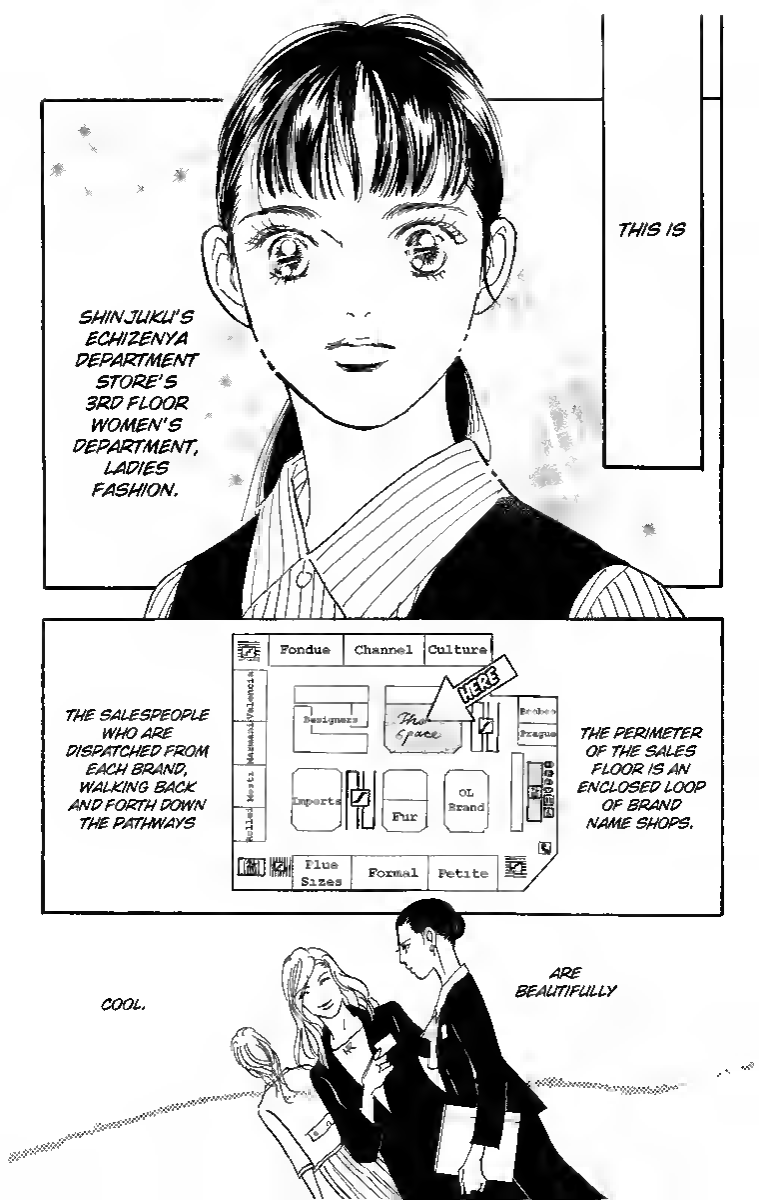
Real Clothes

by Makimura Sakura

Real Clothes

Chapter 2

WHERE IS THIS PLACE? WHO AM I?
The space

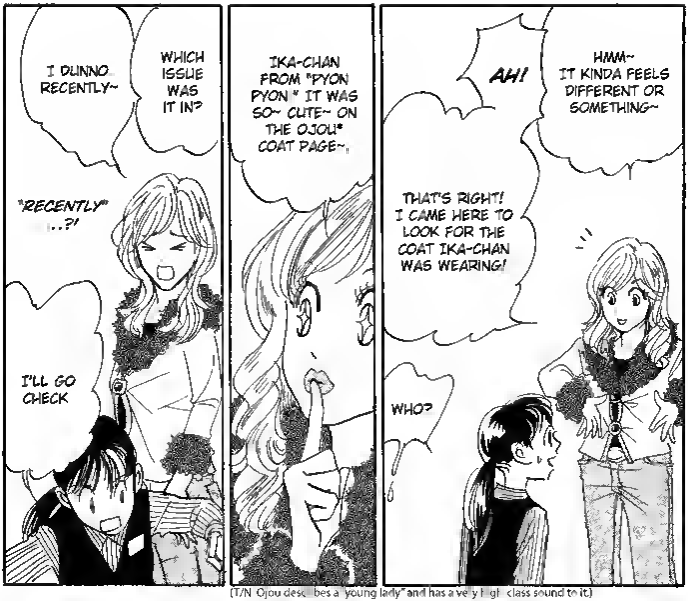

THIS IS
SHINJUKU'S ECHIZENYA DEPARTMENT STORE'S 3RD FLOOR WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT, LADIES FASHION.
THE SALESPEOPLE WHO ARE DISPATCHED FROM EACH BRAND, WALKING BACK AND FORTH DOWN THE PATHWAYS
Fondue
Channel
Culture
HERE
Designers
The Space
Prague
Imports
Fur
OL Brand
Plus Sizes
Formal
Petite
THE PERIMETER OF THE SALES FLOOR IS AN ENCLOSED LOOP OF BRAND NAME SHOPS.
COOL.
ARE BEAUTIFULLY

IT'S A PLACE SAID TO BE "FOR EVERYONE" DUE TO BEING STOCKED WITH ECHIZENYA'S ORIGINALS

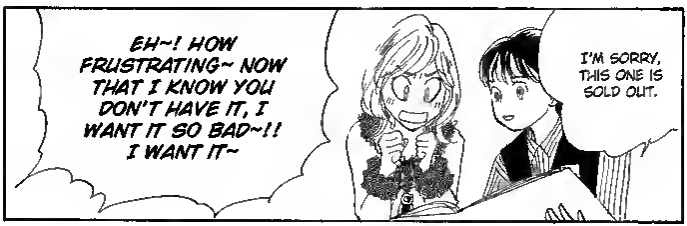
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF IT IS "THE SPACE."

The Space

GASP!
YES!
THAT ONE TOO! PLEASE TRY IT ON, BY ALL MEANS!
MAYBE THIS ONE IS CUTER~
I HAVE...
IF IT'S THERE, THEN SEARCHING THE STOCK ROOM
THEN THIS, TOO, IS ..
Fitting Room
ONCE IT'S TRIED ON,
LET'S SEE UM... HOW ABOUT TRYING ON SOMETHING ONE SIZE LARGER?
UGH! THE BUTTONS ARE GONNA POP
WHAT?
NO WAY, IT'S GOTTA BE A SIZE 7 FOR ME.
NO— THAT'S INDECENT.
HOW IS IT?

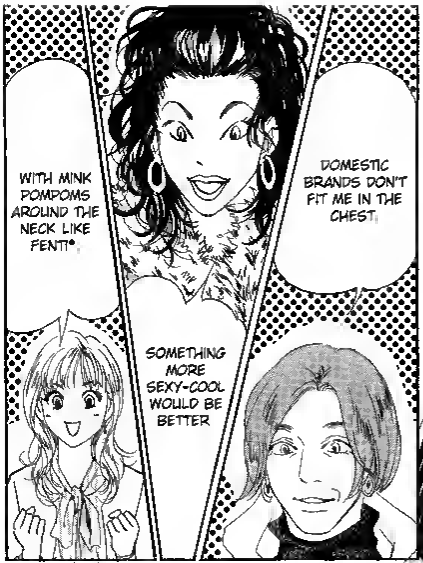

I DUNNO RECENTLY~
WHICH ISSUE WAS IT IN?
"RECENTLY"...?
I'LL GO CHECK
IKA-CHAN FROM "PYON PYON" IT WAS SO~ CUTE~ ON THE OJOU* COAT PAGE~,
AH!
HMM~ IT KINDA FEELS DIFFERENT OR SOMETHING~
THAT'S RIGHT! I CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR THE COAT IKA-CHAN WAS WEARING!
WHO?

(T/N Ojou describes a "young lady" and has a very high class sound to it.)

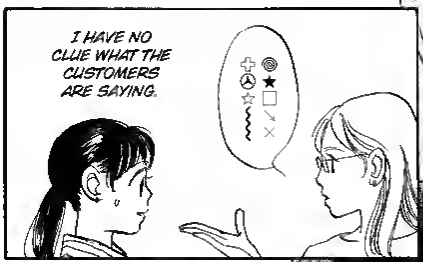


A COAT SIMILAR TO THIS— I HAVE TO RECOMMEND A COAT SIMILAR TO THIS!
UMM, UMM!
THAT... IS HOW IT GOES, HUH?
ERIN
NO PROBLEM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
AH!
How about this?
Try this one one
HM~.. I'M GOING TO THE SECOND FLOOR. IT'S GOT A DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE FROM HERE. SORRY.
DROP.

I...


WITH MINK POMPOMS AROUND THE NECK LIKE FENTI*!
DOMESTIC BRANDS DON'T FIT ME IN THE CHEST!
SOMETHING MORE SEXY-COOL WOULD BE BETTER

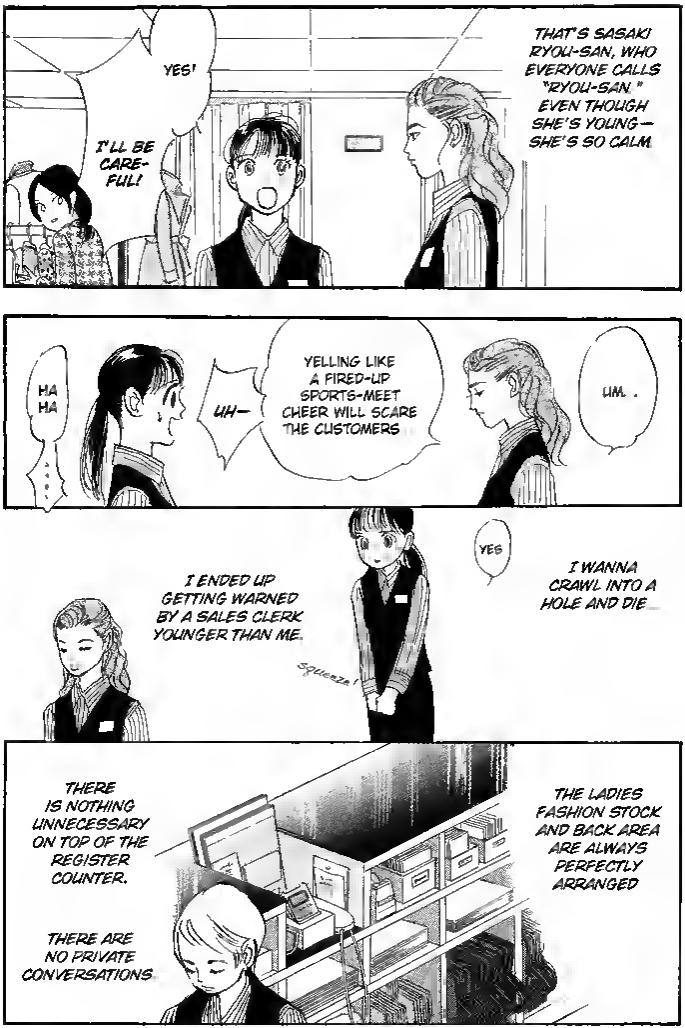
(T/N: This is a false brand based on Fendi.)

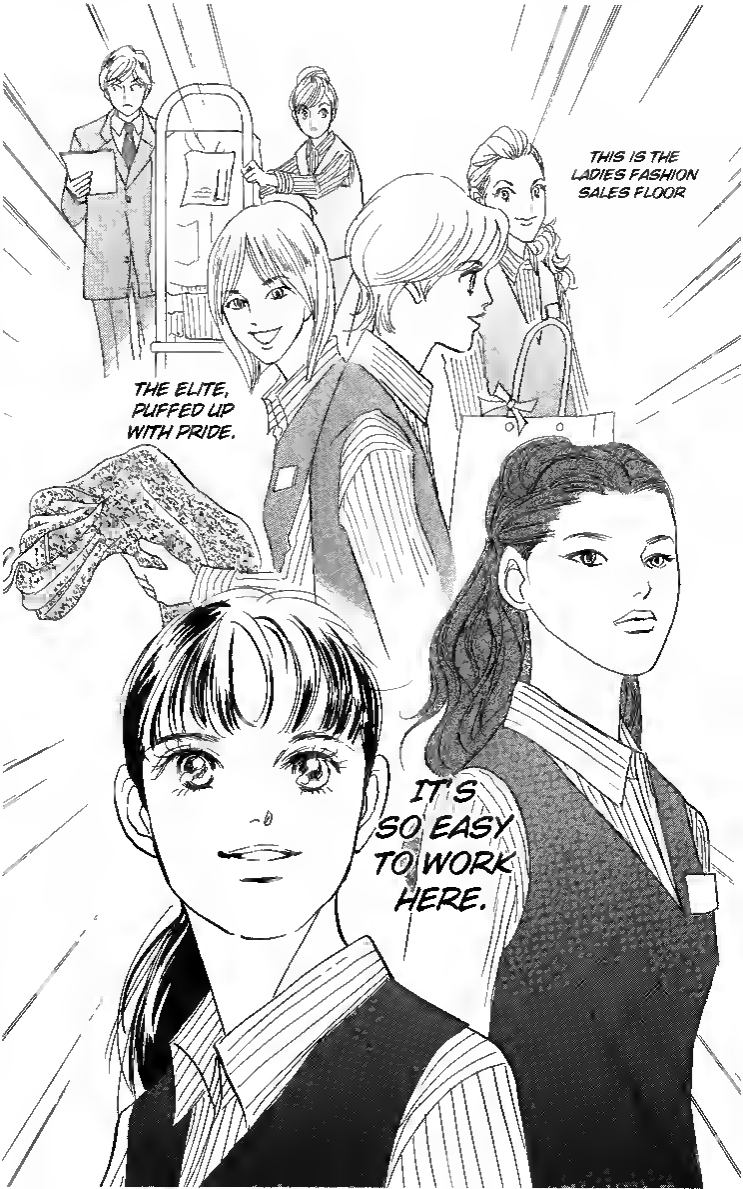


SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE

I'VE BECOME AN IDIOT.

flop!
AH!
SOME-ONE'S DONE IT FOR ME.
DON'T GET DEPRESSED, DON'T GET DEPRESSED,
ANNOYED TWITCH
I'VE GOTTA FOLD THE SWEATERS THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT LYING AROUND.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
I'LL COME BACK LATER
I CAN'T MAKE A SALE.
RYOU-SAN? THANK YOU VERY MUCH
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE CUSTOMERS TO SEE SUCH A DISHEVELED PLACE.
DON'T ABANDON THEM IN THE MIDDLE IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO FOLD, PLEASE LEAVE THEM AT THE REGISTER

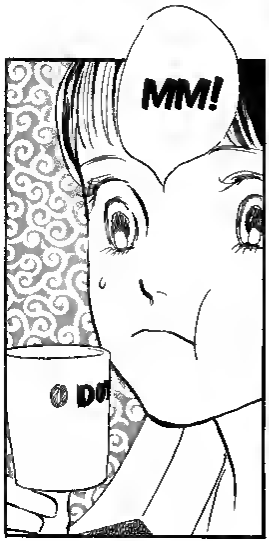

THAT'S SASAKI RYOU-SAN, WHO EVERYONE CALLS "RYOU-SAN." EVEN THOUGH SHE'S YOUNG— SHE'S SO CALM.
YES!
I'LL BE CARE-FUL!
UM. .
YELLING LIKE A FIRED-UP SPORTS-MEET CHEER WILL SCARE THE CUSTOMERS
UH—
HA HA
I WANNA CRAWL INTO A HOLE AND DIE
YES
I ENDED UP GETTING WARNED BY A SALES CLERK YOUNGER THAN ME.
Squeeze
THE LADIES FASHION STOCK AND BACK AREA ARE ALWAYS PERFECTLY ARRANGED
THERE IS NOTHING UNNECESSARY ON TOP OF THE REGISTER COUNTER.
THERE ARE NO PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS

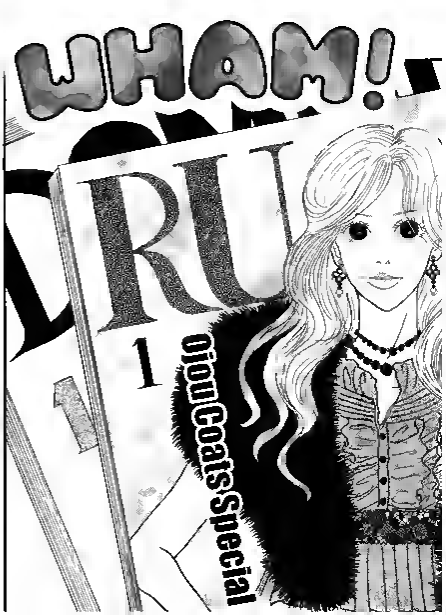

THIS IS THE LADIES FASHION SALES FLOOR
THE ELITE, PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE.
IT'S SO EASY TO WORK HERE.

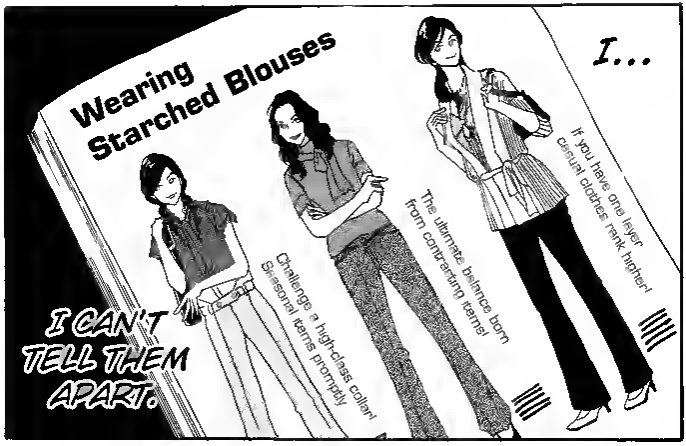
(T/N A polite phrase said when leaving work before your co workers.)
I'LL DRILL THE DISTINCT FEATURES OF THE CLOTHES ON THE SALES FLOOR INTO MY BRAIN.
AND THE NUMBER IN STOCK!
OTSUKARE-SAMA*
OSAKI NI SHITSURE SHIMASU*
(T/N A phrase said to one who has finished a job.)
THE SHOP IS NOW CLOSED.
BRANDS, COLORS, STYLES, MATERIALS
I'VE GOTTA BE ABLE TO PULL THEM OUT RIGHT AWAY. I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE GO BY.
AT LEAST UNTIL IT COMES TO THE DETAILS OF CLOTHES!
Eek!
Do you have it?

I'D BETTER LOOK IT UP!
African Super Mohair
HM?

OKAY~
I'M GOING TO LOCK THE DOORS


MM!

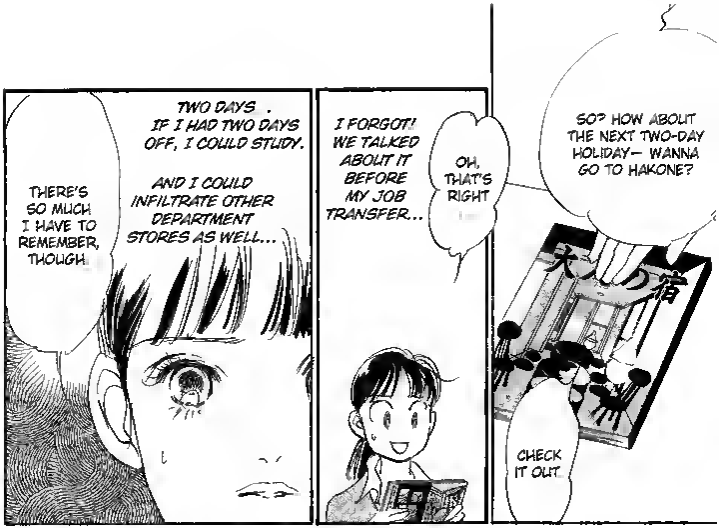

WHAM!
1
Ojou Coats Special

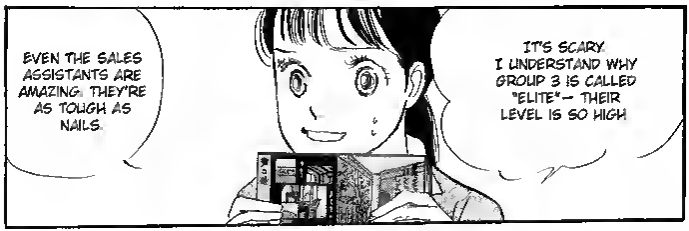

Wearing Starched Blouses
I...
If you have one layer of neutral clothes, rank higher!
The ultimate balance born from compromising jeans!
Challenge a high-class collar! Sneakers! Jeans promptly
I CAN'T TELL THEM APART.

I FEEL SICK...

ARE YOU OKAY?
AH!
TATSUYA

I'M SLACKING— I WAS NERVOUS AND ALL JUMBLED UP ALL DAY LONG—
YUMMY~!
STEAM
STEAM
WOW!
YOU'RE TOO SERI-OUS!
HEE HEE!
YOU THINK?
THAT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT! I'M SAYING IT NOW, YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE GIST OF IT.
AH! I'M TAKING THIS ONE!
IT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT!


TWO DAYS . IF I HAD TWO DAYS OFF, I COULD STUDY.
AND I COULD INFILTRATE OTHER DEPARTMENT STORES AS WELL...
THERE'S SO MUCH I HAVE TO REMEMBER, THOUGH.
I FORGOT! WE TALKED ABOUT IT BEFORE MY JOB TRANSFER...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
SO? HOW ABOUT THE NEXT TWO-DAY HOLIDAY— WANNA GO TO HAKONE?
CHECK IT OUT.


EVEN THE SALES ASSISTANTS ARE AMAZING. THEY'RE AS TOUGH AS NAILS.
IT'S SCARY. I UNDERSTAND WHY GROUP 3 IS CALLED "ELITE"— THEIR LEVEL IS SO HIGH

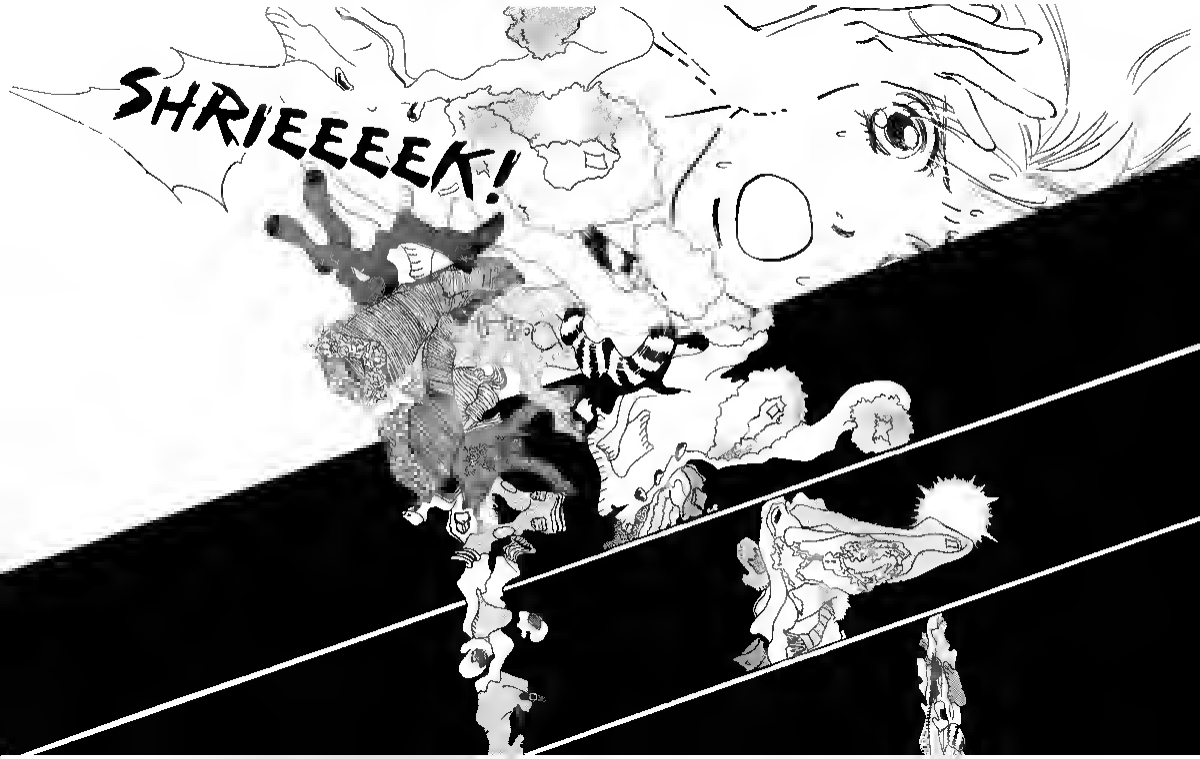
KINUE-CHAN, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO THE CONVERSATION?
EARTH TO KINUE~
AND MANAGER FUKUDA, WHO I WAS DEPENDING ON, HAS PRETTY MUCH DISAPPEARED TO WHO KNOWS WHERE

TATSUYA, ISN'T THAT SHIRT A LOW THREAD-COUNT SUMMER ITEM? THIS IS BAD! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WORKING—
!
AH.
I'VE BLOWN A FUSE.
SORRY!

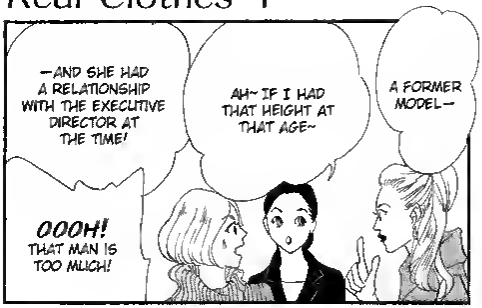
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I'LL CHANGE TO WINTER SHIRTS.
IT'S A DIFFERENCE OF STYLE, POSTURE, AND SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN WHAT THEY'RE WEARING.
!
AND THOUGHTS OF MYSELF ARE FILLING MY...!
..A REALLY COOL PERSON.
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND SOMEONE WHO ISN'T.

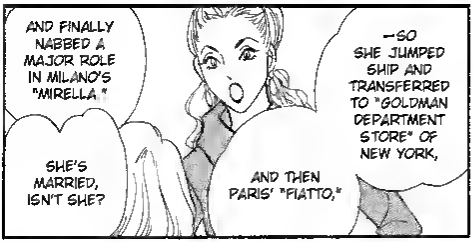
DOES THIS MEAN— YOU DO ONE THING OR ANOTHER TO YOURSELF WITH WHAT YOU'RE WEARING?
SO COOL—! SO SEXY—! SO BEAUTIFUL—! WHAT IS IT SPECIFICALLY?
DO CLOTHES HAVE A "FORMULA"?

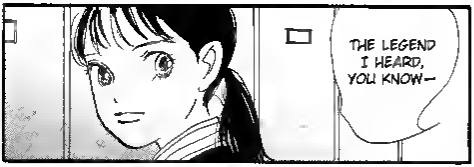
THAT'S IT— I'LL LOOK FOR THE FORMULA.
KII-CHAN.
KINUE-CHAN.
Hello~


SHRIEEEEK!

OOH.
I DIDN'T EVEN WAKE UP.
I'll reserve Hakone.
Just be yourself
Tatsu
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I'LL DO MY BEST.
THANK YOU, TATSUYA

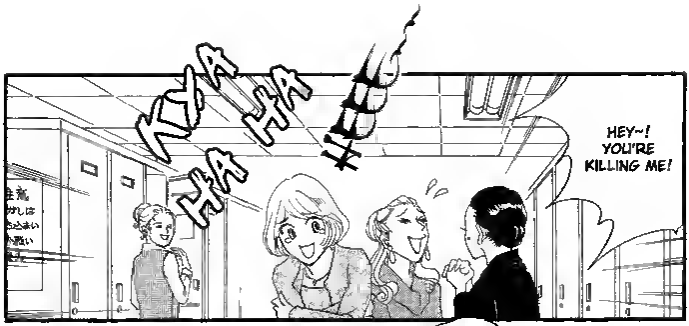

—AND SHE HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE TIME!
AH~ IF I HAD THAT HEIGHT AT THAT AGE~
A FORMER MODEL—
OOOH! THAT MAN IS TOO MUCH!


AND FINALLY NABBED A MAJOR ROLE IN MILANO'S "MIRELLA."
—SO SHE JUMPED SHIP AND TRANSFERRED TO "GOLDMAN DEPARTMENT STORE" OF NEW YORK,
SHE'S MARRIED, ISN'T SHE?
AND THEN PARIS' "FIATTO,"

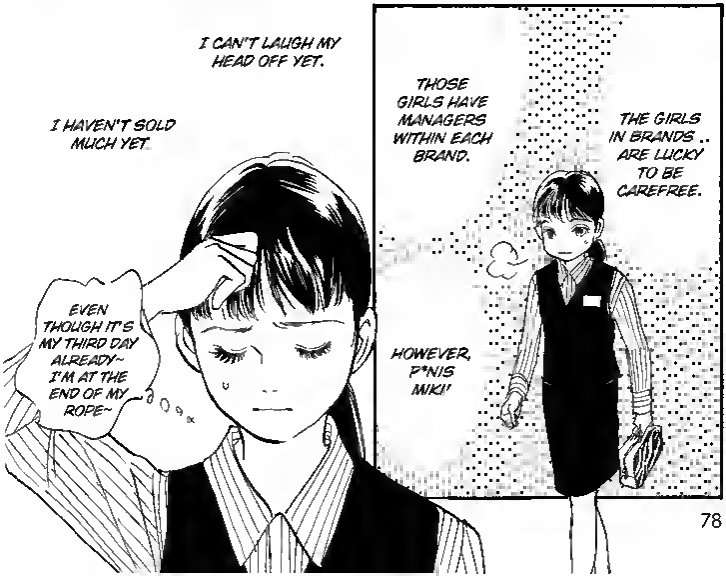

THE LEGEND I HEARD, YOU KNOW—

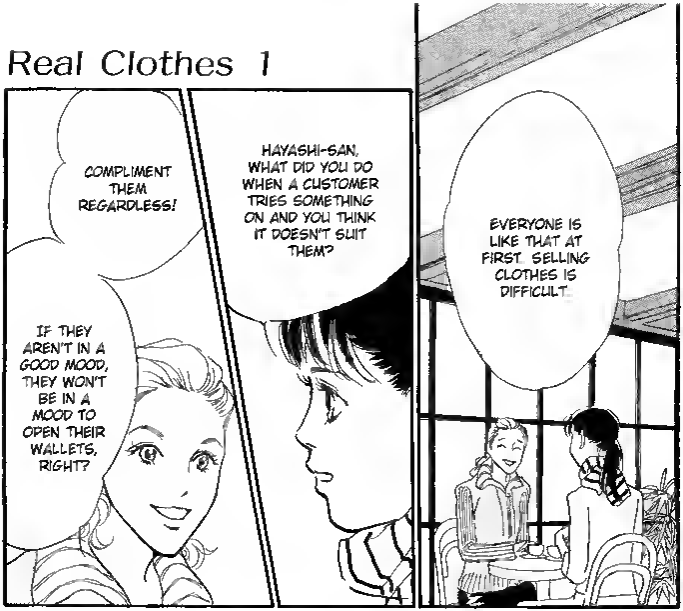
THE P*NIS MIKI LEGEND.
"WHEN I LEFT JAPAN, I WAS CERTAIN I WAS A MAN."

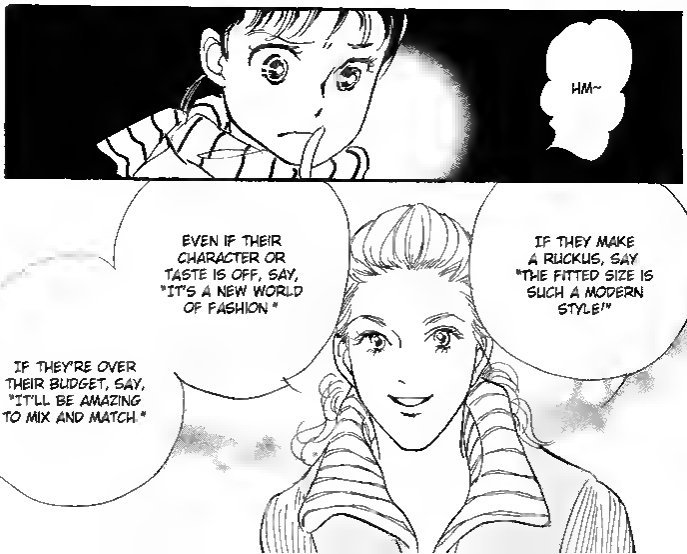
HEY,
DID YOU HEAR THE LOWDOWN ABOUT MIKI-SAMA?
Sales Group 3 Lockers
WHAT?
WHAT?

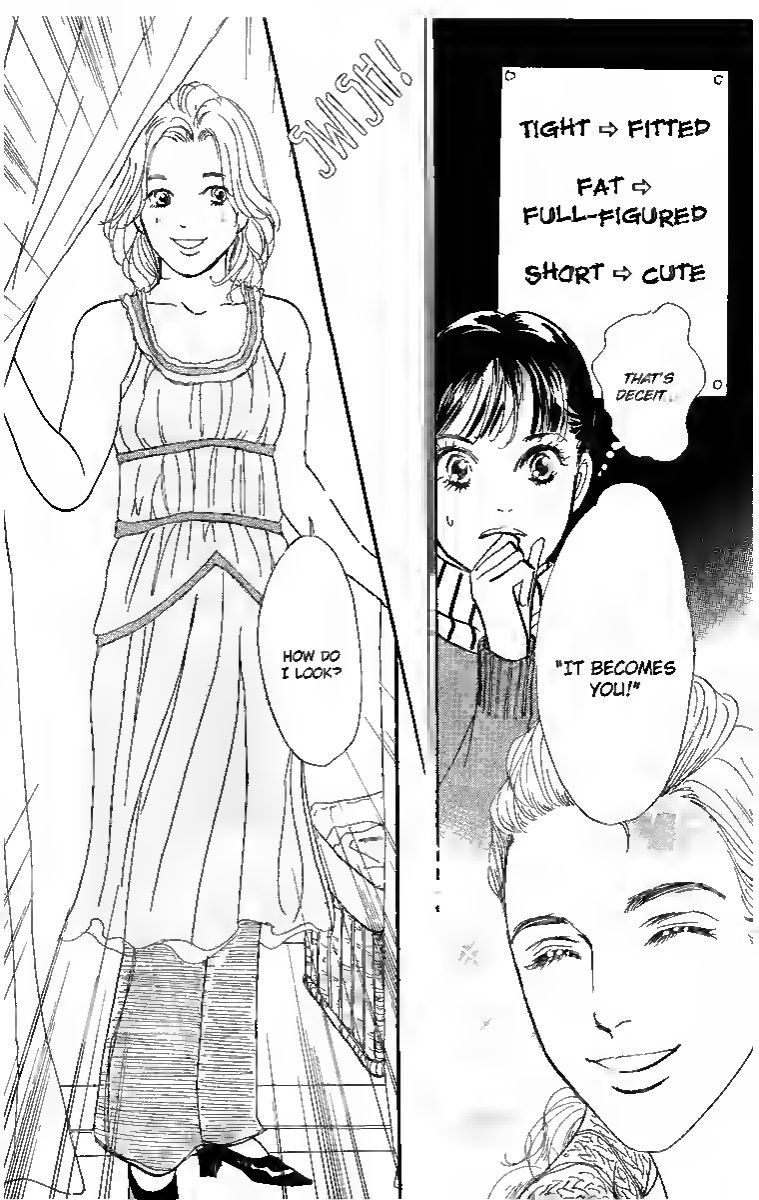

KYA HA HA HA!!
HEY~! YOU'RE KILLING ME!

PFFT!

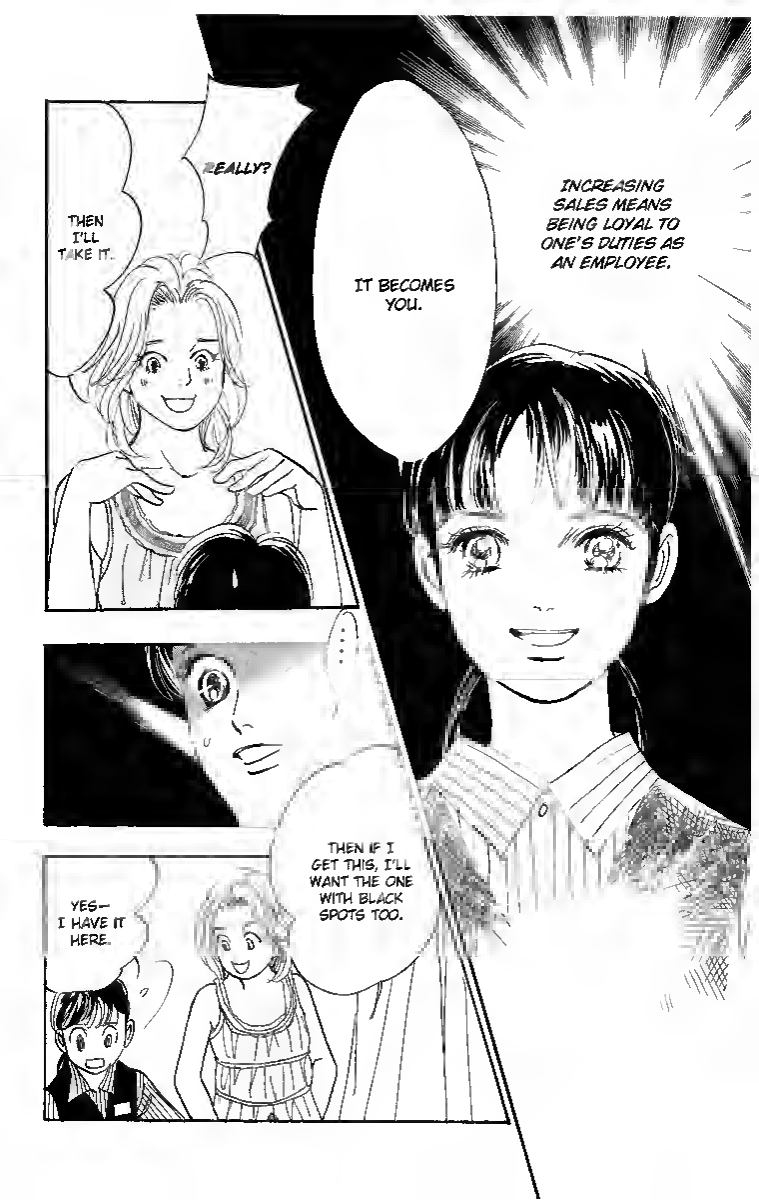

I CAN'T LAUGH MY HEAD OFF YET.
THOSE GIRLS HAVE MANAGERS WITHIN EACH BRAND.
THE GIRLS IN BRANDS.. ARE LUCKY TO BE CAREFREE.
I HAVEN'T SOLD MUCH YET.
HOWEVER, P*NIS MIKI'
EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY THIRD DAY ALREADY~ I'M AT THE END OF MY ROPE~


EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT AT FIRST. SELLING CLOTHES IS DIFFICULT.
HAYASHI-SAN, WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN A CUSTOMER TRIES SOMETHING ON AND YOU THINK IT DOESN'T SUIT THEM?
COMPLIMENT THEM REGARDLESS!
IF THEY AREN'T IN A GOOD MOOD, THEY WON'T BE IN A MOOD TO OPEN THEIR WALLETS, RIGHT?

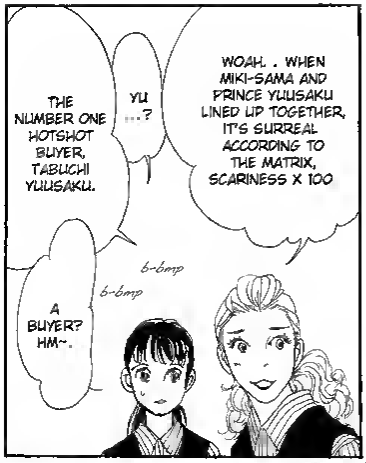

HM~
IF THEY MAKE A RUCKUS, SAY "THE FITTED SIZE IS SUCH A MODERN STYLE!"
EVEN IF THEIR CHARACTER OR TASTE IS OFF, SAY, "IT'S A NEW WORLD OF FASHION."
IF THEY'RE OVER THEIR BUDGET, SAY, "IT'LL BE AMAZING TO MIX AND MATCH."

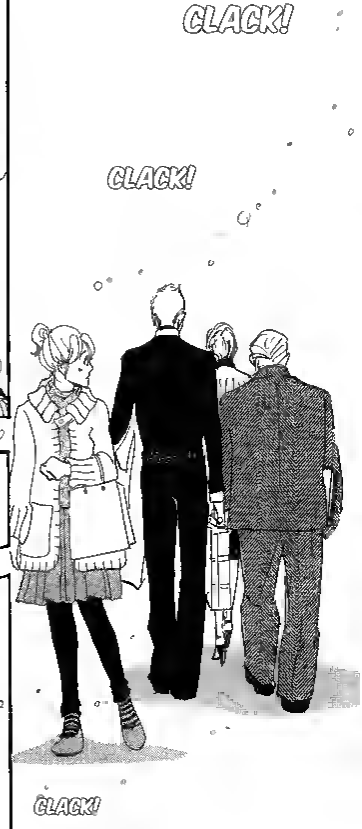

SWISH!
HOW DO I LOOK?
TIGHT ⇨ FITTED
FAT ⇨ FULL-FIGURED
SHORT ⇨ CUTE
THAT'S DECEIT...
"IT BECOMES YOU!"

WEIRD!! IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU!!
IT'S EXACTLY YOUR SIZE
THAT'S TRUE
IT'S CUTE, BUT...
DO I WANT TO MAKE A SALE
TO THE POINT WHERE I'D LIE AND DECEIVE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S ALL FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING THEM HAPPY, GETTING THEM IN THE MOOD, AND CONNECTING IT TO TRYING THE NEXT THING ON.
IT...


INCREASING SALES MEANS BEING LOYAL TO ONE'S DUTIES AS AN EMPLOYEE.
IT BECOMES YOU.
REALLY?
THEN I'LL TAKE IT.
...
THEN IF I GET THIS, I'LL WANT THE ONE WITH BLACK SPOTS TOO.
YES— I HAVE IT HERE.

THUMP!
THUMP!


WOAH. . WHEN MIKI-SAMA AND PRINCE YUUSAKU LINED UP TOGETHER, IT'S SURREAL ACCORDING TO THE MATRIX, SCARINESS X 100
YU ...?
THE NUMBER ONE HOTSHOT BUYER, TABUCHI YUUSAKU.
A BUYER? HM~.
b-bmp
b-bmp



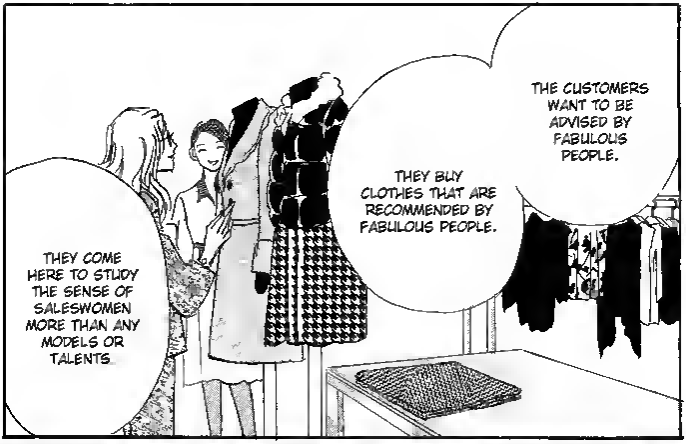
IT'S A STORY FROM A REMOTE WORLD....

Real Clothes 1

AMANO-SAN.
YES?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
THIS —
WAS RETURNED.
"AN EMPLOYEE HELPED ME OUT A LOT,"
"AND TOLD ME IT SUITED ME, SO I WENT WITH IT, HOWEVER,"
"WHEN I GOT HOME AND TRIED IT ON, IT WAS WEIRD."
"I LOOKED ABSURD."
AND SINCE IT DOESN'T MATCH ANYTHING I HAVE"— SHE SAID,
IT BECOMES YOU!

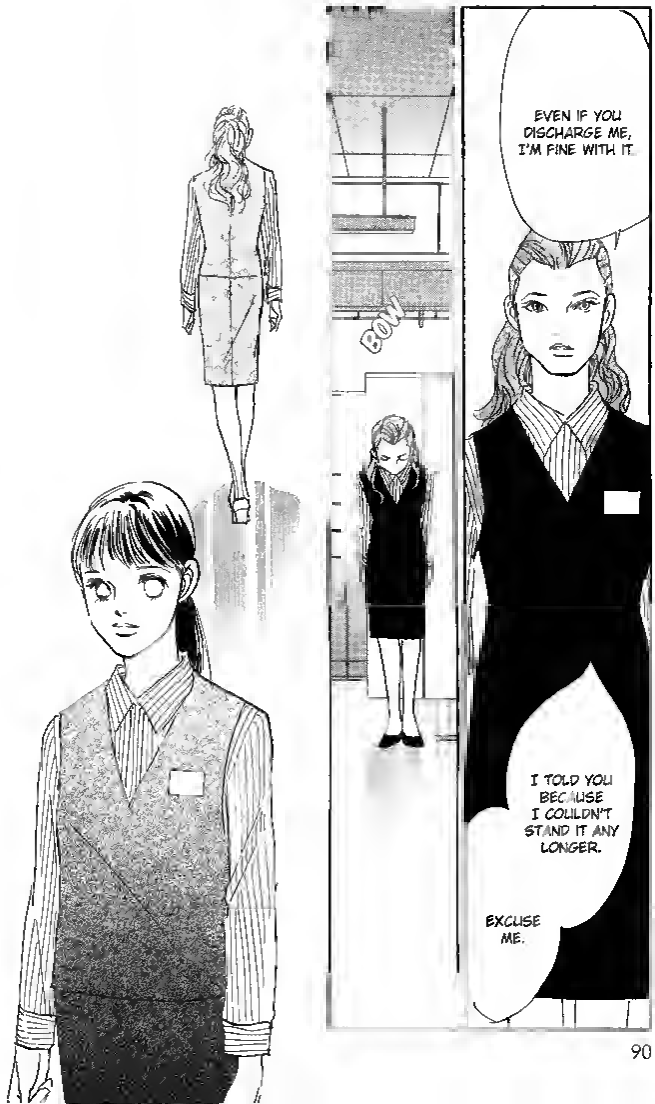
THIS MORNING, SHE WAS THE FIRST TO COME.
WHEN I RECOMMENDED A DIFFERENT DRESS, SHE TOOK A LIKING TO IT
I WAS ABLE TO GET HER TO "EXCHANGE" IT AT THE VERY LEAST.
THA-
NK YOU SO MUCH
AMANO-SAN.
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL SALESWOMEN WE ARE THOROUGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT CLOTHES AND WE LOVE CLOTHES.

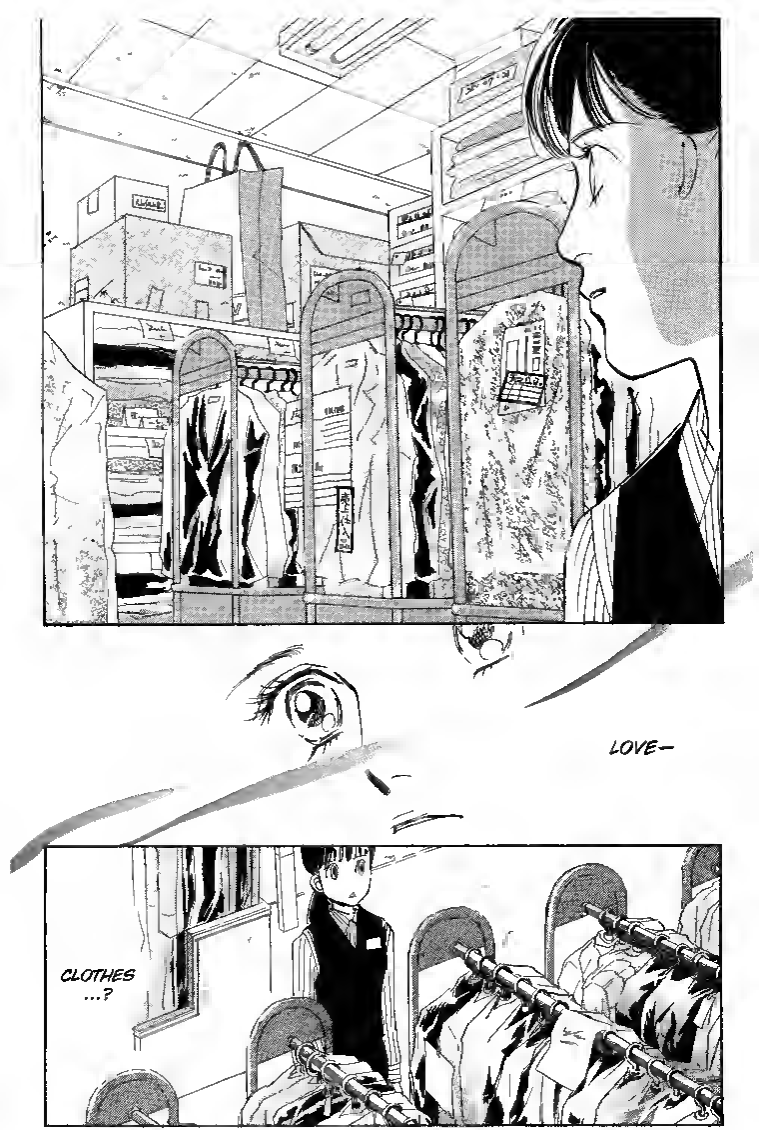
IF WE CAN ONLY MAKE A SALE WITH SUPERFICIAL LIP SERVICE, THE SHOP'S REPUTATION WILL PLUMMET.
THE MOTIVATION OF THE OTHER EMPLOYEES WILL DROP AS WELL.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING I KNOW IS RUDE. YOU ARE NOT REFINING YOURSELF— NEITHER YOUR HAIR, NOR YOUR MAKE-UP.
SOMETHING LIKE— IF I STUDY IT WITH MY HEAD, IT'LL WORK OUT—
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULDN'T TAKE CLOTHES SO LIGHTLY.
AT THE VERY LEAST YOUR NAILS .. AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WORN DOWN HEELS ON YOUR SHOES...
I'M NOT TAKING THIS LIGHTLY AT ALL
THE CUSTOMERS NOTICE THESE FINE DETAILS.


THEY COME HERE TO STUDY THE SENSE OF SALESWOMEN MORE THAN ANY MODELS OR TALENTS.
THEY BUY CLOTHES THAT ARE RECOMMENDED BY FABULOUS PEOPLE.
THE CUSTOMERS WANT TO BE ADVISED BY FABULOUS PEOPLE.

WON'T YOU DIET AND TRY TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT? CLOTHES LOOK THE BEST ON A BODY WITH A BMI OF LESS THAN 20

PLEASE LOVE THE CLOTHES
IF YOU DON'T, THEN I WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS A COMRADE
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT BY YOU.
PISSED...!
POUND
WHY?
WHY "FAT"?
POUND
A "YOKEL"—
POUND
THAT, COMING FROM A CO-WORKER...!!
POUND


EVEN IF YOU DISCHARGE ME, I'M FINE WITH IT.
BOW
I TOLD YOU BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER.
EXCUSE ME.


LOVE—
CLOTHES ...?

CLANG
CLANG
COMING THROUGH! SORRY~!

End of Chapter 2

SUBMITTED BY: MARIS

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QC by : Maris

Real Clothes

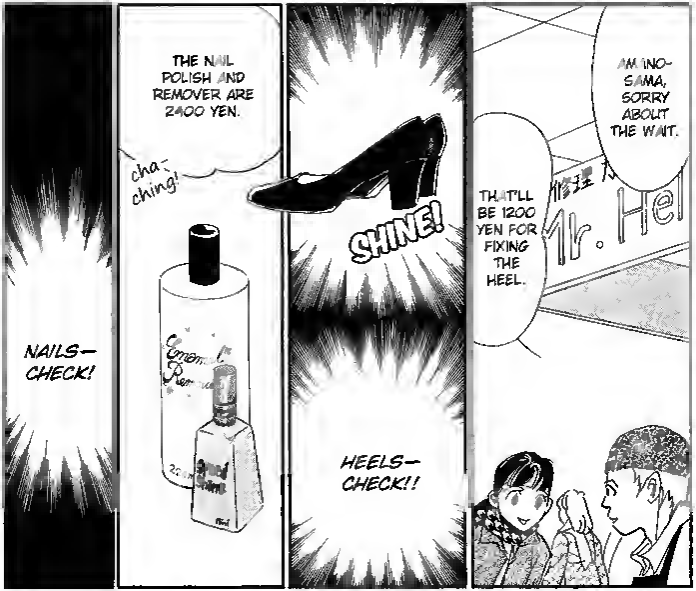
by Makoto Aino

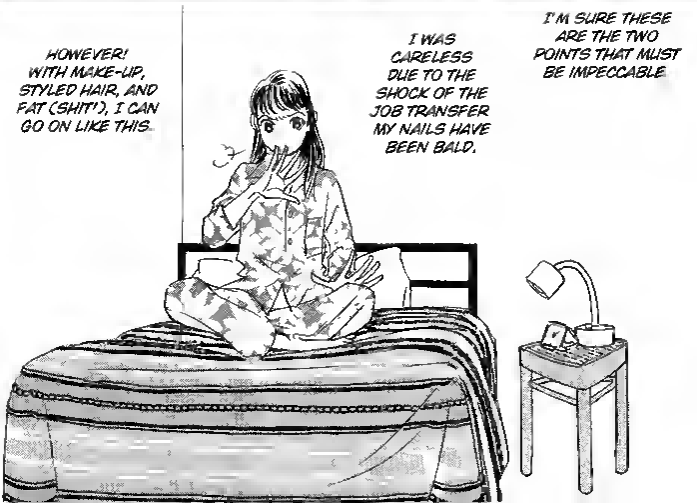
Real Clothes

Chapter 3

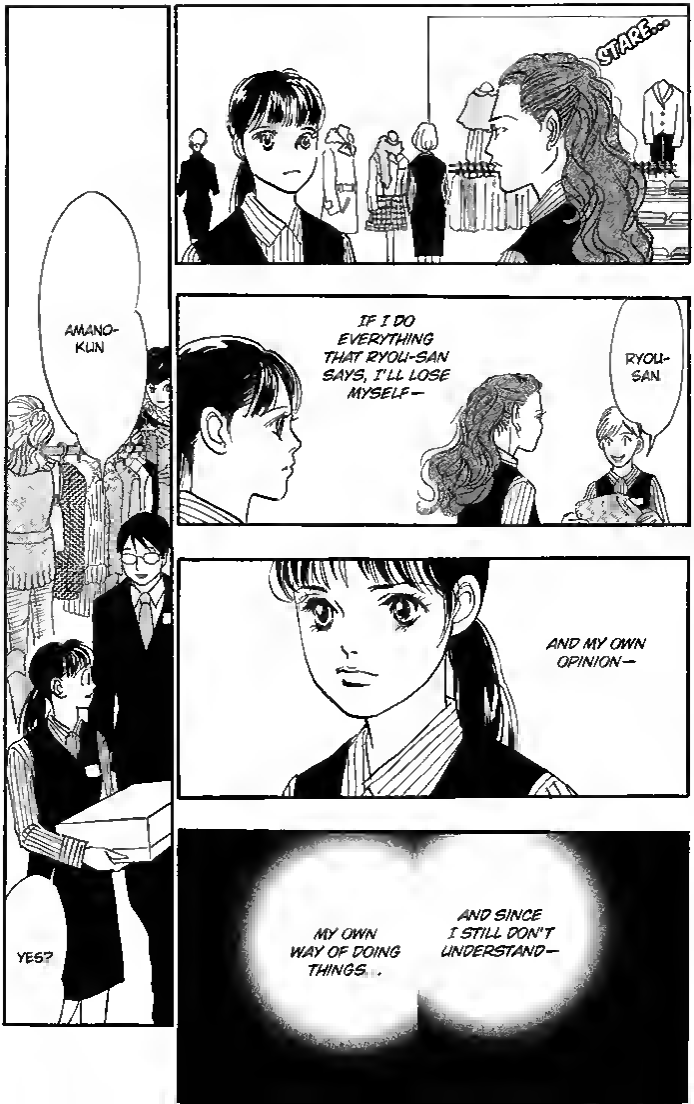
RYOU-SAN SAID THAT?
Boo-hoo
YEESH~?
WHO CARES ABOUT CLOTHES? ISN'T IT ALL JUST AN EXTRA HUSK~?
SHE'S GOING TO MAKE ENEMIES THAT WAY
SHE DOESN'T GIVE A BIT OF THOUGHT TO HOW SHE'S SAYING THINGS
SHE DOESN'T FORGIVE ANYTHING ANYMORE.

—WAIT, IT HURT YOU, DIDN'T IT?
AS EXPECTED
BEING FAT
AND AN UGLY BITCH
BUT THOSE ARE HER VALUES
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS
I FEEL LIKE THAT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO..
AH.. IS THAT HOW IT WAS?
YOU'RE NO 1 IN FUTON SALES, AFTER ALL
DON'T LOSE YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE, OKAY?


AM INO-SAMA, SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT.
THAT'LL BE 1200 YEN FOR FIXING THE HEEL.
Mr. Hel
SHINE!
HEELS— CHECK!!
THE NAIL POLISH AND REMOVER ARE 2400 YEN.
cha-ching!
NAILS— CHECK!

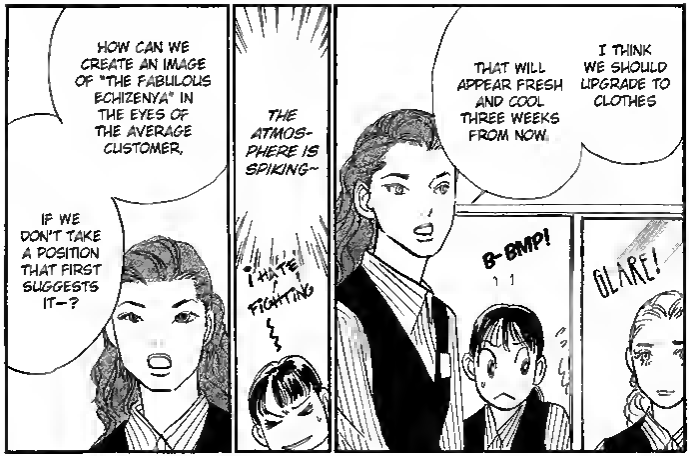

I'M SURE THESE ARE THE TWO POINTS THAT MUST BE IMPECCABLE
I WAS CARELESS DUE TO THE SHOCK OF THE JOB TRANSFER MY NAILS HAVE BEEN BALD.
HOWEVER! WITH MAKE-UP, STYLED HAIR, AND FAT (SHIT!), I CAN GO ON LIKE THIS.

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
WHAT IS IT?
MY— "WAY OF DOING THINGS"—
IN YOUR OWN WAY.

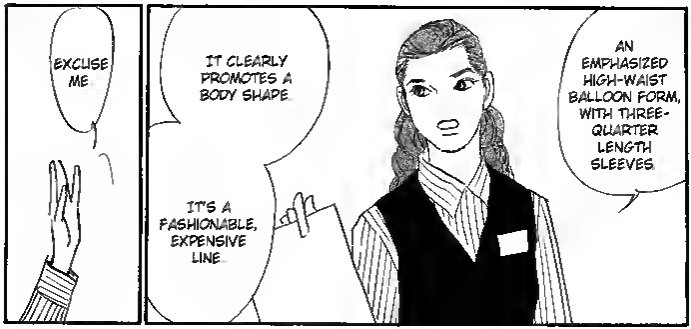

STARE...
RYOU-SAN
IF I DO EVERYTHING THAT RYOU-SAN SAYS, I'LL LOSE MYSELF—
AMANO-KUN
AND MY OWN OPINION—
AND SINCE I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND—
MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS...
YES?

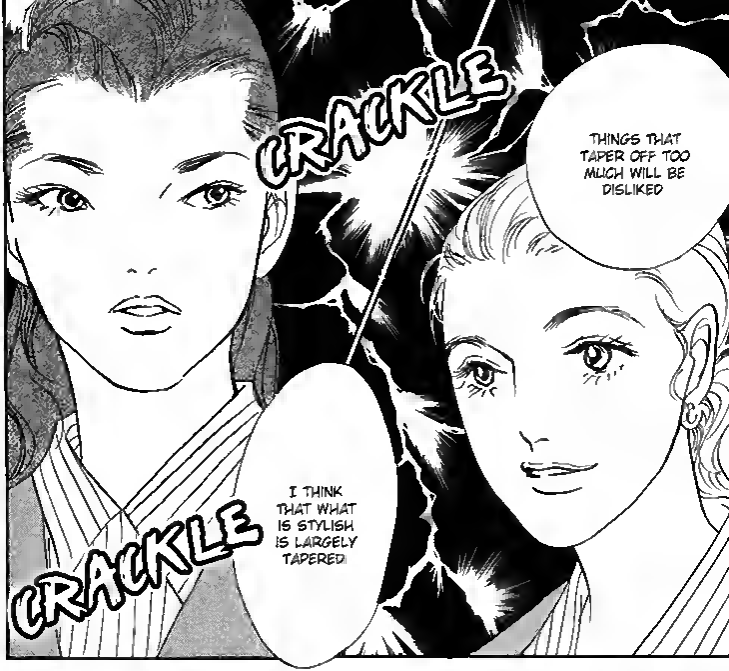
UH?!
OKAY!
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO PLACE THE ORDERS IT'S AT 3:00 IN CONFERENCE ROOM 10 IN THE OTHER BUILDING
THIS IS MY FIRST MEETING TO PLACE ORDERS!!
THESE PEOPLE MAKE UP THE MEETING?
EXCUSE ME
THUMP
THUMP
Me...
DOK...
gong

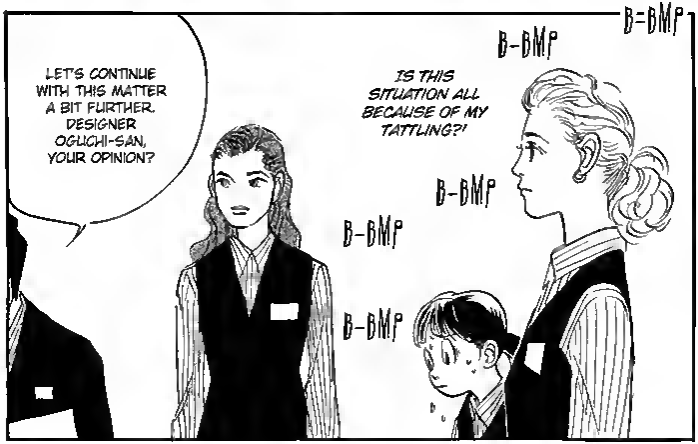
TODAY'S AGENDA IS THIS LONG CARDIGAN
FIRST, HAYASHI HAS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROPOSALS.
WE ARE CURRENTLY OUT OF STOCK BECAUSE WE SOLD ALL 100 PIECES IN A SINGLE WEEK—LAST WEEK.
AS FOR INQUIRIES, WE RECEIVE TWENTY A DAY. THIS IS THE SIGN OF A HUGE HIT.
FORTY IN BLACK, THIRTY IN OLIVE-BROWN, TWENTY IN KHAKI, TEN IN CREAM.
IT'S URGENT—IF WE CAN, I'D LIKE TO ORDER ANOTHER 100 WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS.
UH-HUH
EXCUSE ME
RYOU-SAN, GO AHEAD
IN THREE WEEKS, THE SEASONS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE CHANGING.
EVEN IF WE PREPARE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE SOLD NOW WE'D END UP FOLLOWING IN THE WAKE OF THE TREND.
GLANCE
IN THAT WAY, WE'D BE THE SAME AS A VOLUME SELLER, OR THEREABOUTS.


HOW CAN WE CREATE AN IMAGE OF "THE FABULOUS ECHIZENYA" IN THE EYES OF THE AVERAGE CUSTOMER.
IF WE DON'T TAKE A POSITION THAT FIRST SUGGESTS IT—?
THE ATMOS-PHERE IS SPIKING~
I HATE FIGHTING
I THINK WE SHOULD UPGRADE TO CLOTHES
THAT WILL APPEAR FRESH AND COOL THREE WEEKS FROM NOW.
B-BMP!
GLARE!

AND WHAT KIND OF DESIGN WOULD THAT BE, SPECIFICALLY?

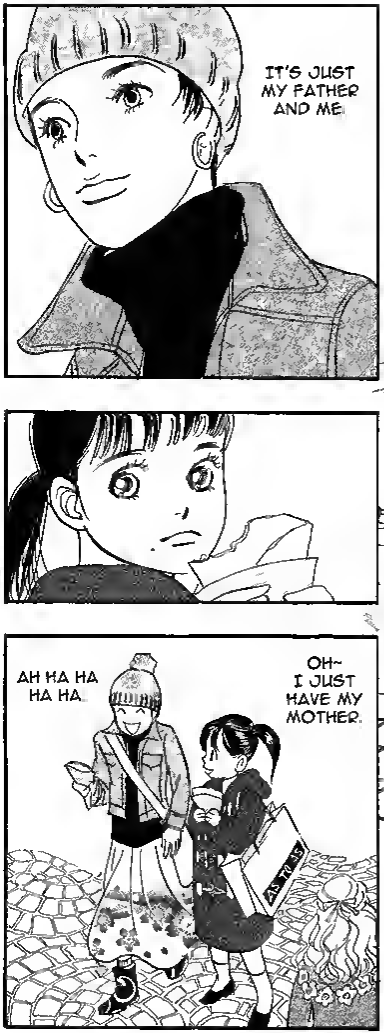

EXCUSE ME
IT CLEARLY PROMOTES A BODY SHAPE.
IT'S A FASHIONABLE, EXPENSIVE LINE.
AN EMPHASIZED HIGH-WAIST BALLOON FORM, WITH THREE-QUARTER LENGTH SLEEVES.


CRACKLE
CRACKLE
THINGS THAT TAPER OFF TOO MUCH WILL BE DISLIKED
I THINK THAT WHAT IS STYLISH IS LARGELY TAPERED.

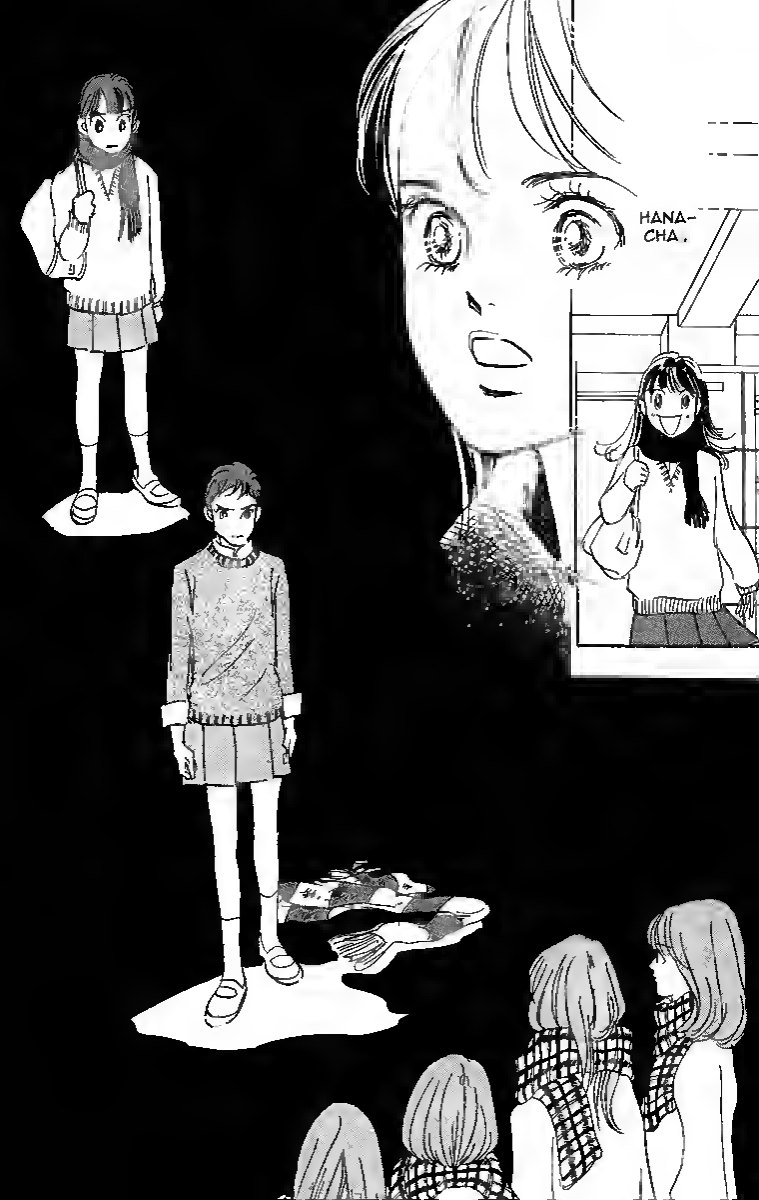

B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
IS THIS SITUATION ALL BECAUSE OF MY TATTLING?!
LET'S CONTINUE WITH THIS MATTER A BIT FURTHER. DESIGNER OGUCHI-SAN, YOUR OPINION?

THOSE TWO GRATE ON MY NERVES
I'M STARTING... TO NOT FEEL SO GOOD.
YES.
ALL WE DID WAS FLOAT AROUND— AND WE ENDED UP BEING FAST FRIENDS.
I FELT LIKE MY FAT LEGS STOOD OUT, SO I WORE SOCKS. HANA-CHAN FREELY SHOWED HER STRAIGHT LEGS.

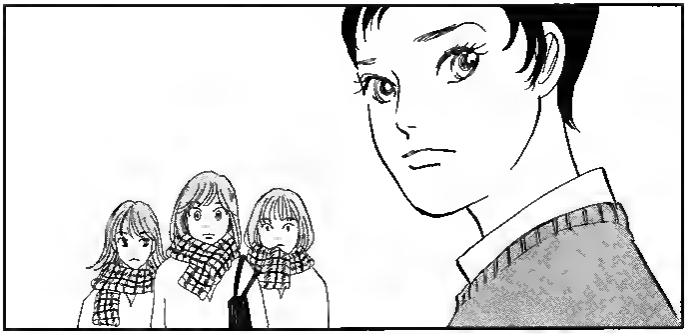
(T/N These are real locations in Harajuku and Tokyo, respectively.)

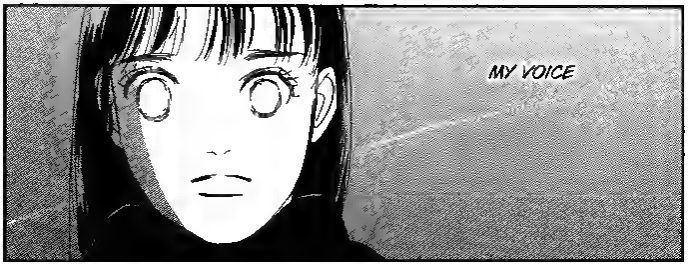

IT'S JUST MY FATHER AND ME.
THE BARGAINS AT LAFORET ON TAKESHITA STREET.*
THE USED CLOTHES SHOPS IN SHIMOKITAZAWA.*
AH HA HA HA HA.
OH~ I JUST HAVE MY MOTHER.
AS TALL
IT WAS A BLAST WINDOW-SHOPPING AROUND, JUST THE TWO OF US.

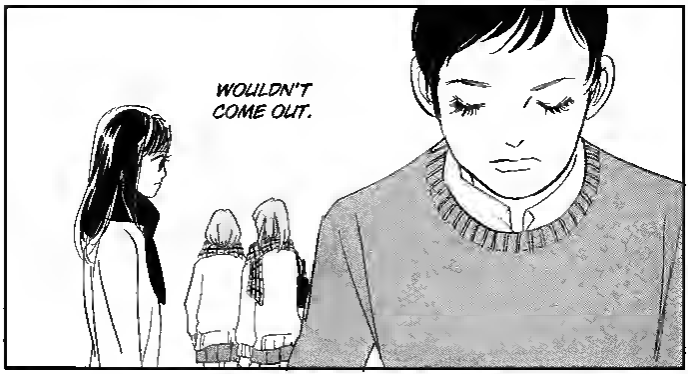
IT'S TOTALLY CUTE, KINU-CHAN!
What do you think?
IT'S FUN TO BE WITH YOU, HANA-CHAN!
I LOVE YOU, HANA-CHAN.


HANA-
CHA.

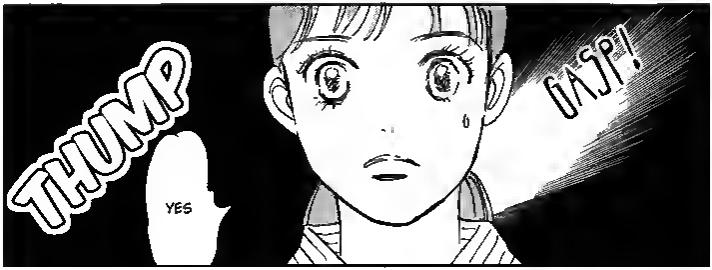
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT CAUSED THE BULLYING.
HANA-CHAN HAD SOMETHING ADORABLE
HANA-CHAN WAS PRETTY.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT WAS... IT'S SICKENING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE SICKENING.




MY VOICE


WOULDN'T
COME OUT.

CLOTHES SHOULD BE SAFE. QUICKLY— I'LL BECOME AN ADULT. AN ADULT WITH SUBSTANCE INSIDE—
BEING STYLISH IS IDIOTIC.
THINGS WITH HANA-CHAN ENDED THERE. WE COULDN'T TALK.
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION AMANO-SAN?
IF YOU STAND OUT, YOU'LL JUST BE KNOCKED DOWN.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ALONG WITH THE GIRLS WHO JUDGED HANA-CHAN ONLY BY HER APPEARANCE

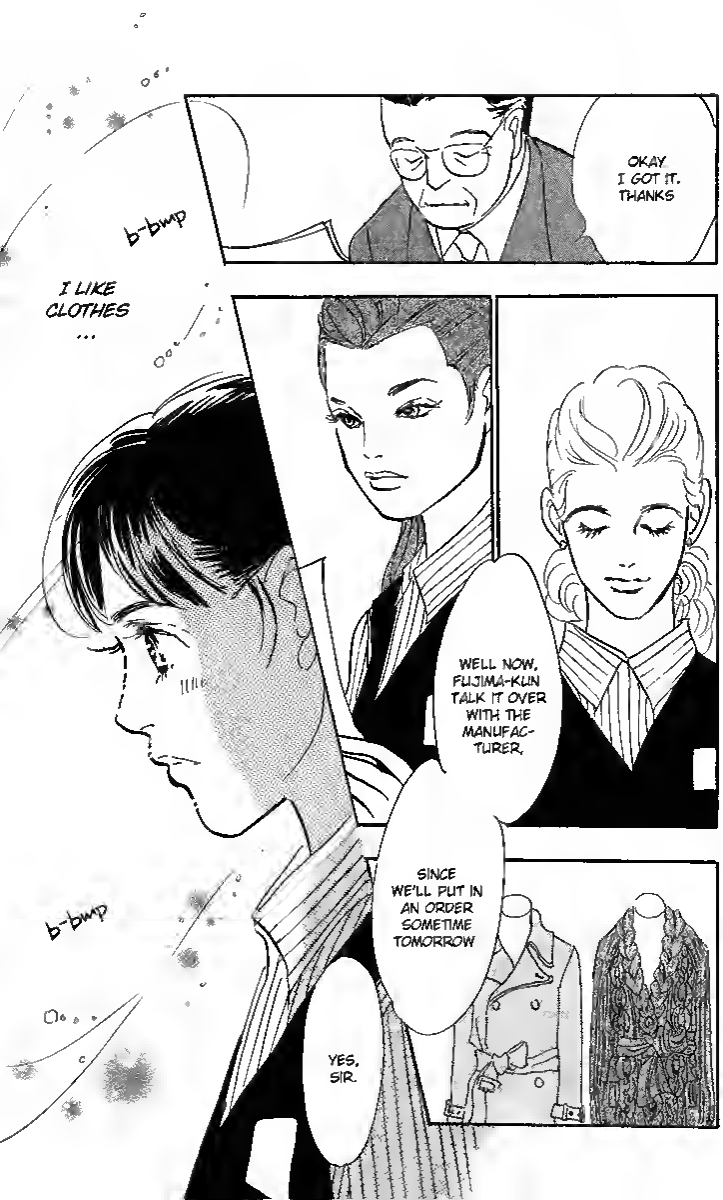

THUMP
YES
GASP!

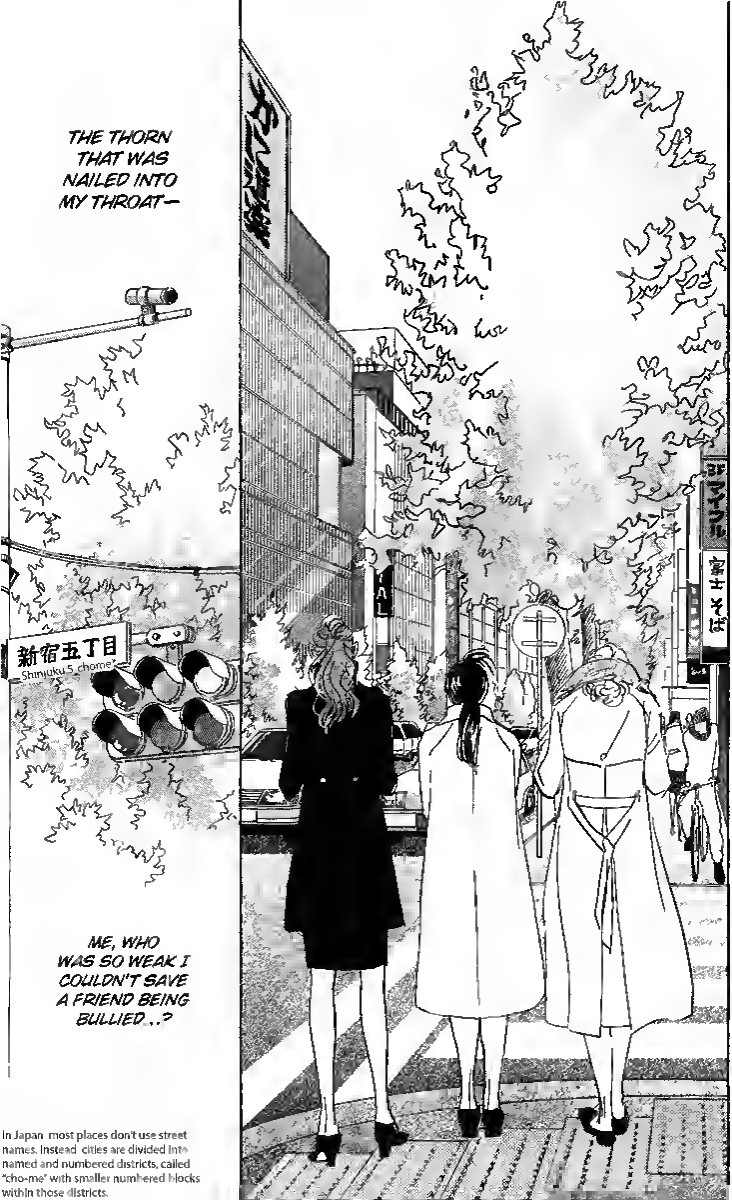
MY OWN WAY...
THUMP
CALM DOWN

AN OBSESSION ABOUT HIGHER RANKINGS OR LOVE FOR A DESIGNER— IF THERE IS A CLEAR DISTINCTION SUCH AS THAT, IT'S EASY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.
I WANT TO SAY, "THIS IS AMAZING," NOT, "THIS CAN SELL."
I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE PRODUCTS THEY WOULD DESIRE MORE.
WHEN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO CUSTOMERS,

ASKING EVEN THOUGH I'M A NEWBIE!
UM!
NO WAY!
.....
STARE!
SPECIFICALLY WHAT?
I...
!
SUCH AS THE TEXTURES OF MY BIRTHPLACE,
OR SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL WITH FINISHED EDGES,
OR SOMETHING IN A STYLISH COLOR WITH CROSS-STITCHED BUTTONS

I LOVED ...
CLOTHES!
I LOVE THINGS THAT HAVE LITTLE ADORABLE BITS!
OR SOMETHING THAT MIXES SILK AND CASHMERE.
BUT~! NAMING THE STYLES THAT I LIKE IS NOT GONNA WORK~!!
SMILE


OKAY. I GOT IT. THANKS
b-bump
I LIKE CLOTHES ...
WELL NOW, FUJIMA-KUN TALK IT OVER WITH THE MANUFAC-TURER.
SINCE WE'LL PUT IN AN ORDER SOMETIME TOMORROW
YES, SIR.
b-bump



In Japan, most places don't use street names. Instead, cities are divided into named and numbered districts, called "cho-me" with smaller numbered blocks within those districts.

JUMP!
WHAT ARE YOU SO UNCERTAIN ABOUT?
I HAVE A WEAKNESS
FOR CONFLICT... AND STUFF.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING.
WOULDN'T WE BE UNABLE TO GET GOOD RESULTS IF WE COULDN'T TELL EACH OTHER WHAT WE WANTED TO?

IF YOU CORNER PEOPLE WITH LOGIC, THERE WILL BE SOME THAT GET ANGRY...
A BIT MORE SOLICITOUS PHRASING WOULD BE BETTER.
THAT KIND OF GUY DIES.
PFFT!

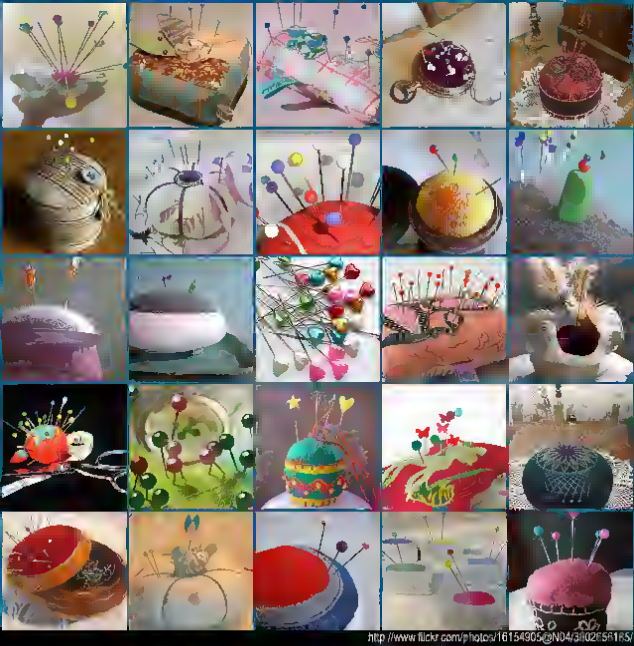
A DRESS FOR A COUNTRY FRIEND'S WEDDING RECEPTION...
IT'S PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS THE SAME GROUP OF PEOPLE, AND I THINK, "WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING?"
THE FRILLY DRESSES ARE ENDLESS!
I'M ALREADY 30!
I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS SPIRAL.
THESE TWO...
ARE SO COOL—!
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW ABOUT A GOOD-QUALITY DRESS OR JACKET YOU CAN WEAR DAY TO DAY?

BRING IT ON!
YEAH— JUST LOOKING AROUND LIKE THIS WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME, RIGHT?
WE HAVE A VARIETY OF CLOTHING LINES, SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY SOME ON?
HM—
A JACKET WOULD BE...
IF IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE WORK UNIFORMS, IT'S OUT. I NEED IT TO BE A BIT MORE FEMININE.
THIS IS OUR SO-CALLED "WORK JACKET."
IT'S COOL.
AWESOME♡ BUT IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WEAR NORMALLY— I WORK AT A BANK.
THIS IS OUR "WOMEN'S JACKET."
DOES IT FIT?
YOU HAVE TO TRY THE NEXT ONE.
IT'S A TUXEDO JACKET.

AH!
BURST!
THAT'S GREAT.
IT'S THE SAME AS WITH FUTONS!
SHE'S SATISFIED! HER BROW RELAXED!
YUP!
IT'S BLACK, BUT ELEGANT. IT'S ELEGANT, BUT PROPER!
THE BOTTOM IS SHAPELY WITH THE PANTS.
IT'D BE STYLISH WITH DENIM.
IT WOULD MATCH A DRESS OR THE SKIRTS WE HAVE.

I CAN USE THIS. I'LL TAKE IT!
SURE!
PLEASE WEAR IT OFTEN!
THANKS— I THINK THAT WAS SOME GREAT SHOPPING

◆ End of Chapter 3 ◆



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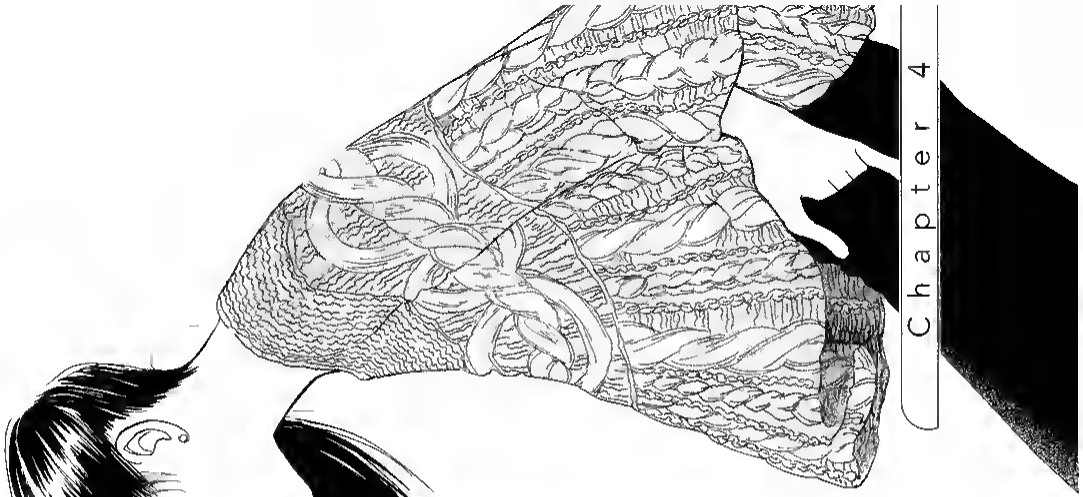
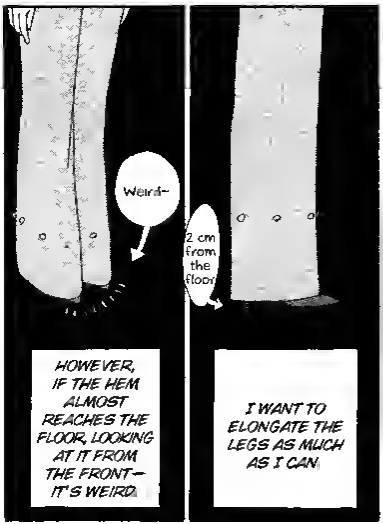
Real Clothes

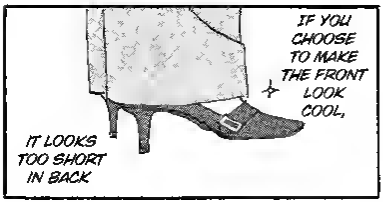
by Makimura Satoru



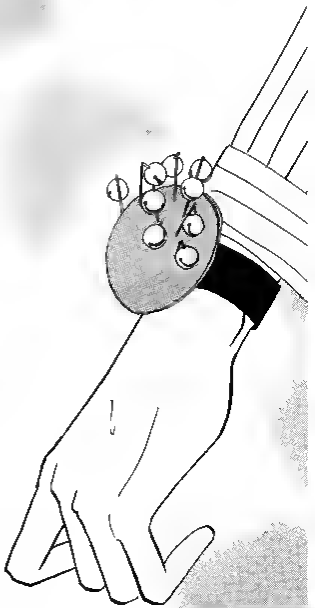
Chapter 4

Real Clothes


Weird~
2 cm from the floor
HOWEVER, IF THE HEM ALMOST REACHES THE FLOOR, LOOKING AT IT FROM THE FRONT— IT'S WEIRD.
I WANT TO ELONGATE THE LEGS AS MUCH AS I CAN.


IF YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE THE FRONT LOOK COOL,
IT LOOKS TOO SHORT IN BACK

HUFF
How ish it?
My anemia
HUFF
HM~
YOU'RE RIGHT


I DON'T KNOW~

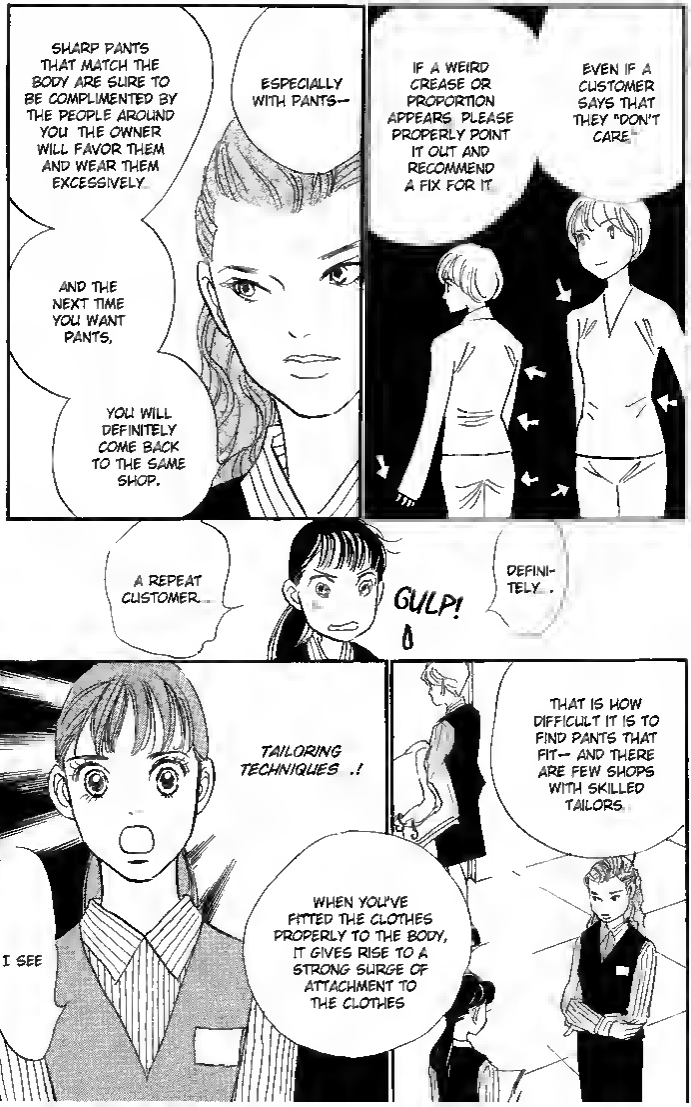
OR MAYBE A DIFFERENT PAIR OF PANTS WOULD BE BETTER?
NO— RATHER, A SKIRT WOULD BE BETTER?
IT'S AS IF I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO CARE ABOUT THE LENGTH OF THE PANTS ANYMORE...
IT FEELS LIKE... I'M EXHAUSTED.
LET'S TRY LOWERING IT ANOTHER 5 MM.
LET'S KEEP AT IT A BIT MORE.
SURE..
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE... PLEASE PICK SOMETHING.
RYOU-SAN!
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
GLIDE!

ONE DOESN'T OFTEN COME ACROSS PANTS THAT FIT RIGHT.
DON'T I KNOW IT~ I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WEEK NOW.
SO MUCH SO, THAT IT'S BEST TO BUY TWO PAIRS IF YOU'RE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING THAT FITS YOUR HIPS PERFECTLY.
YOU'RE OKAY SIZE-WISE AT THE HIPS.
BUT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FIT YOUR WAIST...
IF YOU LOWER IT AT THE SIDE, 1 CM AT A TIME—
SEE? THE TOP OF YOUR HIP RISES AND SHOWS NEATLY
FIT!
WOAH!
MY LEGS GOT LONGER?!
YES.
LIFTING THE WAIST RATHER THAN THE HEM IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FOR ELONGATING YOUR LEGS.
NOW I GET IT.

KYAAAA—! MY LEGS GREW~!!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
AS FOR THE HEMS,
LET'S CHOOSE TO SLANT THEM SO THE FRONT IS HIGHER THAT SHOULD DO IT IF YOU SHOW YOUR PUMPS.
I'LL BRING IT OUT TO YOU.
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER PAIR IN A DIFFERENT COLOR!!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH—!
RYOU-SAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

TAILORING TECHNIQUES...
Tailoring Techniques
PLEASE READ IT.
FLUSH...
HERE
READY-TO-WEAR DIDN'T COME ABOUT UNTIL NEARLY 50 YEARS AGO.
WHAT WE REFER TO AS "WESTERN CLOTHES" WERE ORIGINALLY PIECES THAT HAD TO BE MADE TO ORDER.
IN OTHER WORDS, "CLOTHES MADE TO FIT THE AVERAGE BODY TYPE" MEANS "CLOTHES THAT DON'T FIT ANYONE."
AND THAT'S WHERE TAILORING TECHNIQUES ARE VALUABLE.
IT LETS US FIT CLOTHES PERFECTLY TO THE CUSTOMER'S BODY.

Real Clothes 1


SHARP PANTS THAT MATCH THE BODY ARE SURE TO BE COMPLIMENTED BY THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU THE OWNER WILL FAVOR THEM AND WEAR THEM EXCESSIVELY.
ESPECIALLY WITH PANTS--
AND THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT PANTS,
YOU WILL DEFINITELY COME BACK TO THE SAME SHOP.
IF A WEIRD CREASE OR PROPORTION APPEARS PLEASE PROPERLY POINT IT OUT AND RECOMMEND A FIX FOR IT
EVEN IF A CUSTOMER SAYS THAT THEY "DON'T CARE."
A REPEAT CUSTOMER...
GULP!
DEFINI-TELY...
TAILORING TECHNIQUES .!
I SEE
WHEN YOU'VE FITTED THE CLOTHES PROPERLY TO THE BODY, IT GIVES RISE TO A STRONG SURGE OF ATTACHMENT TO THE CLOTHES
THAT IS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO FIND PANTS THAT FIT-- AND THERE ARE FEW SHOPS WITH SKILLED TAILORS.

I MANAGED TO BORROW A TEXTBOOK FROM RYOU-SAN~~♡
RING-A-LING
Kinue chan, I'm sorry, a business function suddenly came up. Forgive me! — Tatsuya
I have overtime too Ho ho ho' Tatsuya, work hard too ♡
GRIN
ALRIGHT!
PERFECT— I CAN STUDY.
Mori's Stew-ya-san'
森の煮込屋さん
IRASSHAI-MASE
THE STEW SET, WITH BREAD AND COFFEE.
WOAH— THIS LOOKS DIFFICULT!
Tailoring Techniques

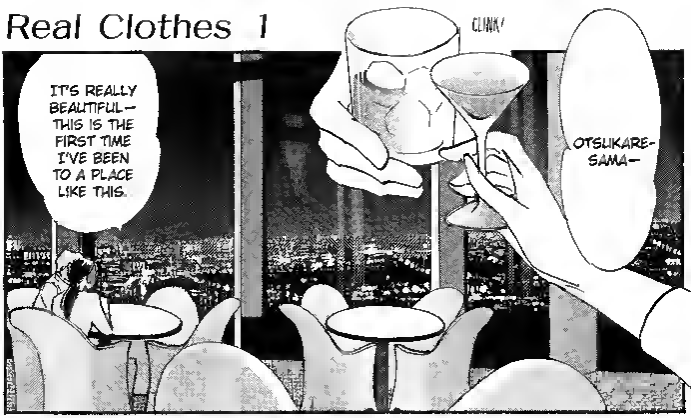
(T/N "Ya" is a suffix referring to a shop "San" is a common honorific)

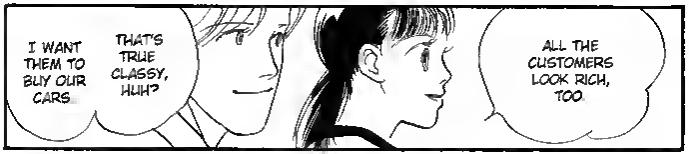
RING-A-LING

Business is finished. How about you? If our timing is right, wanna go for a drink? I'm in Ginza* now— there's a great place here.
— Tatsuya
EH?

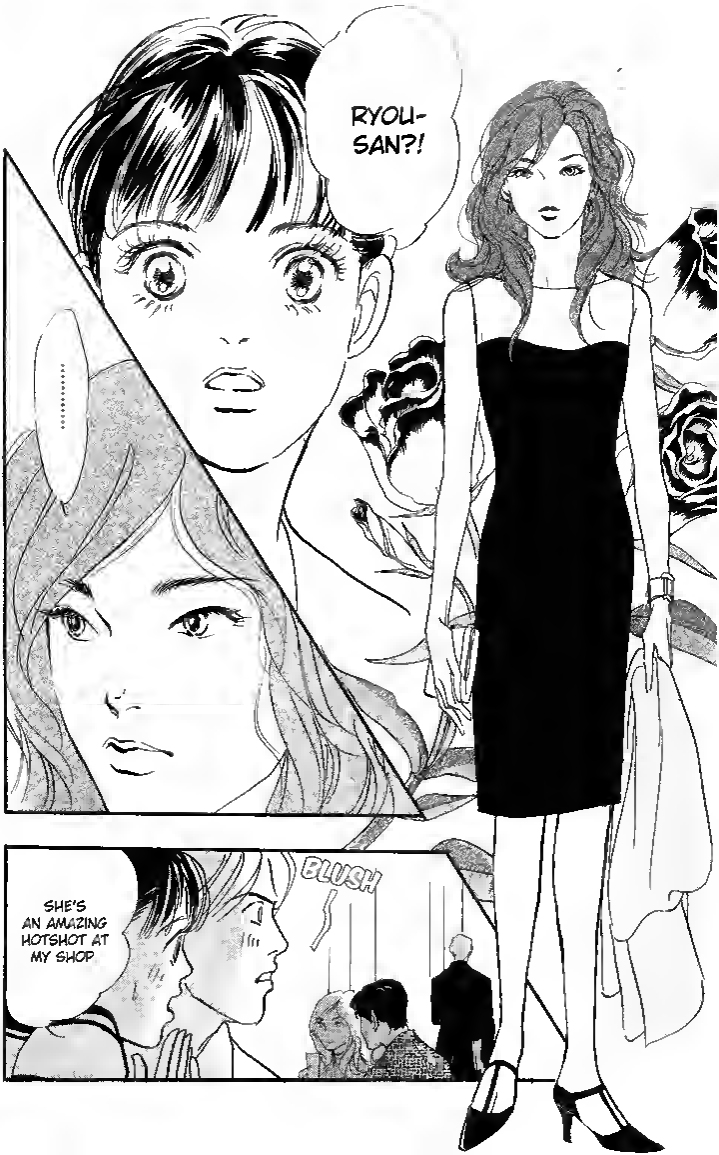
(T/N Ginza is an upscale shopping district in Tokyo.)

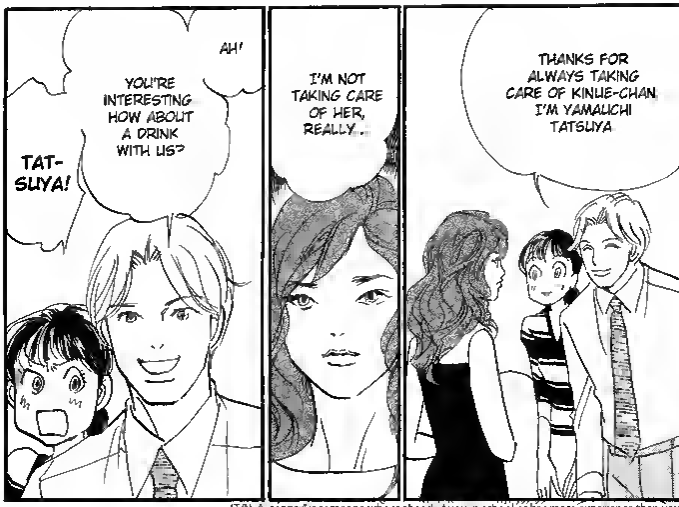
IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE IT, I'D SAY IT'S POPULAR AMONG WOMEN.
IT'S A PLACE WE USE OFTEN FOR BUSINESS FUNCTIONS.
IRASSHAI-MASE


CLINK!
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL— THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
OTSUKARE-SAMA—

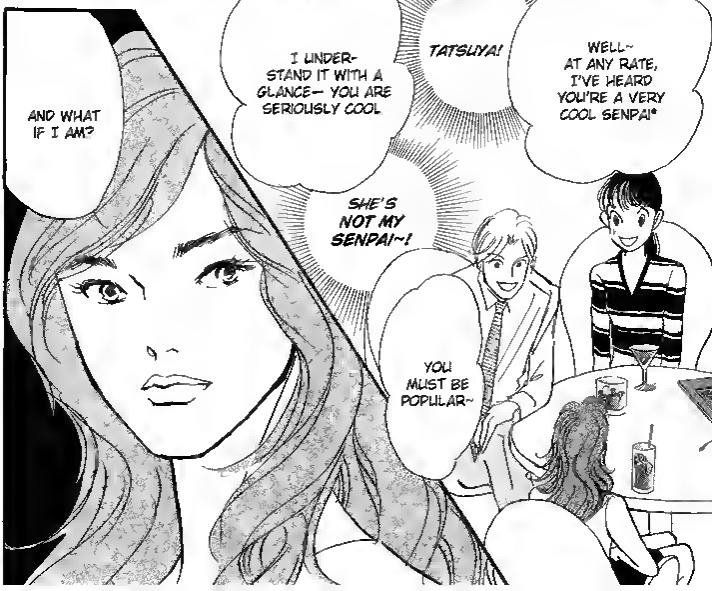

I WANT THEM TO BUY OUR CARS.
THAT'S TRUE CLASSY, HUH?
ALL THE CUSTOMERS LOOK RICH, TOO.

I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING THAT THE MATERIAL IS GOOD AND THERE ARE A LOT OF BRAND NAMES.
THE WOMEN ARE ALL WEARING NICE CLOTHES.
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE STRANGE CREASE.

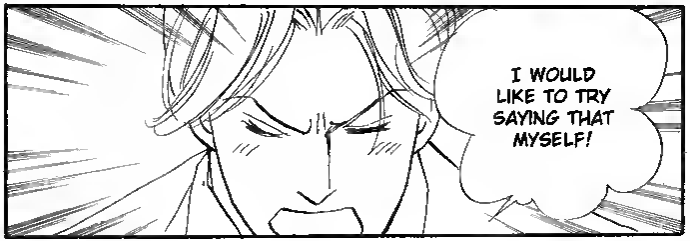

RYOU-SAN?!
.....
BLUSH
SHE'S AN AMAZING HOTSHOT AT MY SHOP


AH!
YOU'RE INTERESTING HOW ABOUT A DRINK WITH US?
TAT-SUYA!
I'M NOT TAKING CARE OF HER, REALLY..
THANKS FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF KINUE-CHAN. I'M YAMAUCHI TATSUYA

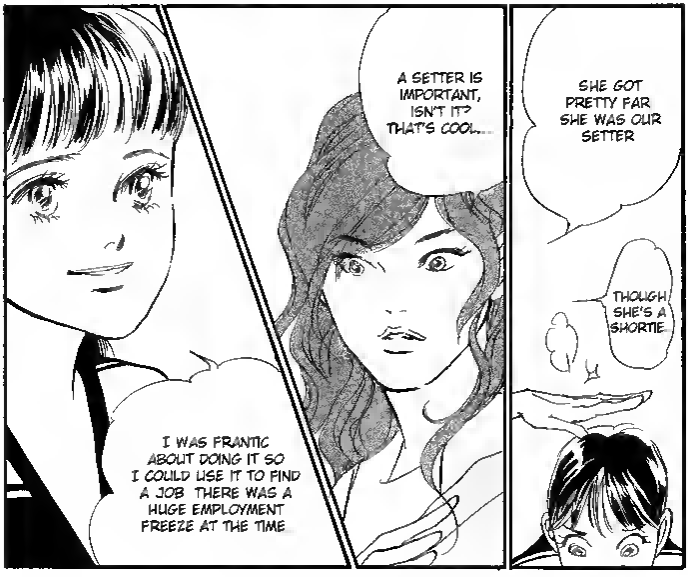
(T/N A "senpai" is someone who is ahead of you in school or has more experience than you.)


AND WHAT IF I AM?
I UNDER-STAND IT WITH A GLANCE— YOU ARE SERIOUSLY COOL
TATSUYA!
WELL~ AT ANY RATE, I'VE HEARD YOU'RE A VERY COOL SENPAI*
SHE'S NOT MY SENPAI~!
YOU MUST BE POPULAR~

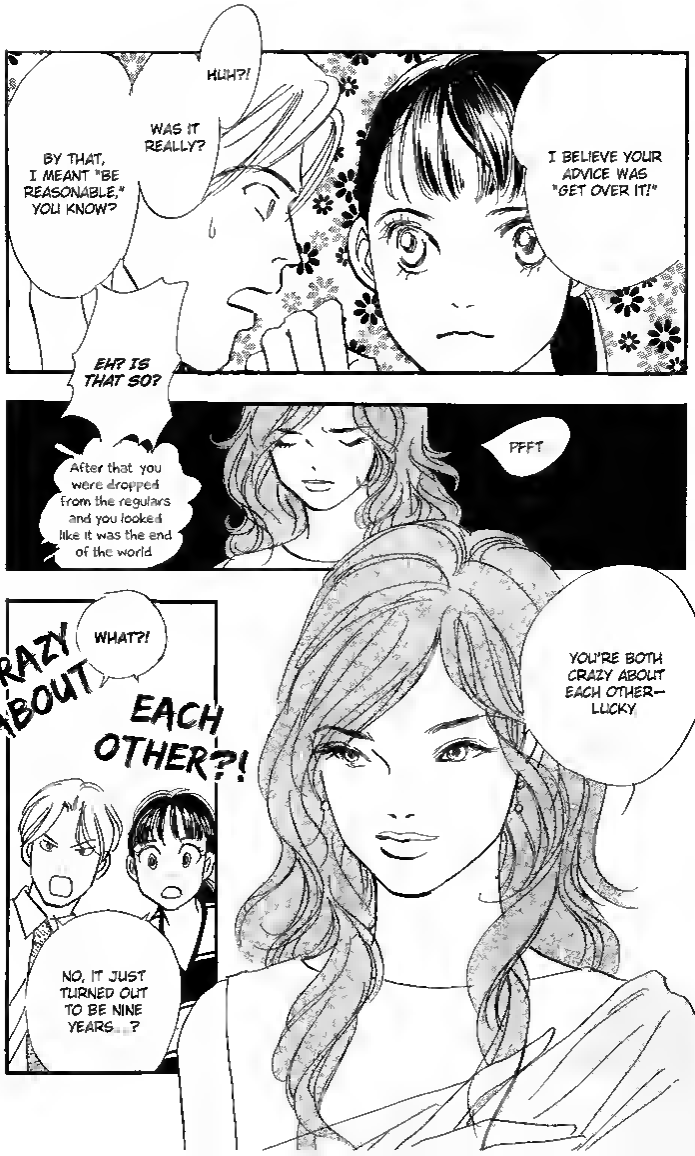
NG!


I WOULD LIKE TO TRY SAYING THAT MYSELF!

AH-
HOW DID WE?
EH?
HOW DID THE TWO OF YOU
BECOME ACQUAINTED?
HE WAS MY SENPAI IN OUR CLUB— WE PLAYED VOLLEYBALL
.....
IT HURT SO MUCH, I HATED VOLLEYBALL
AH HA HA HA
THAT IS TRUE—

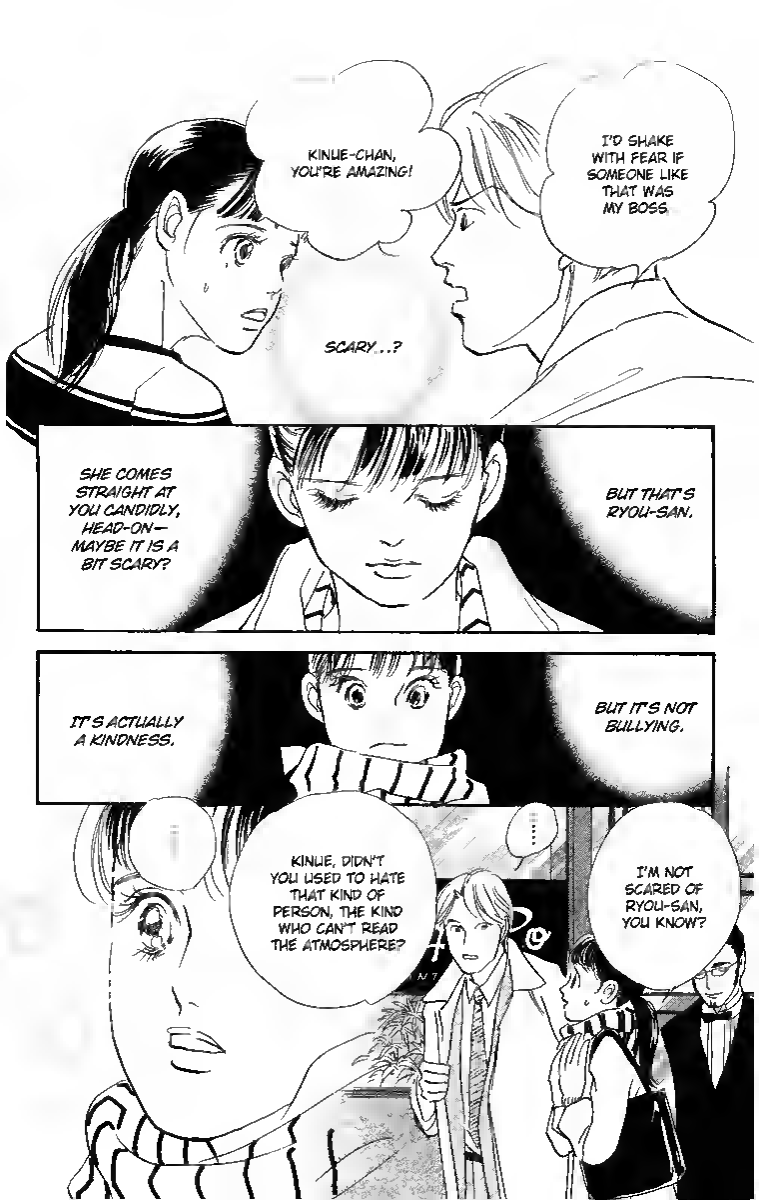

I WAS FRANTIC ABOUT DOING IT SO I COULD USE IT TO FIND A JOB. THERE WAS A HUGE EMPLOYMENT FREEZE AT THE TIME.
A SETTER IS IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT? THAT'S COOL...
SHE GOT PRETTY FAR SHE WAS OUR SETTER
THOUGH SHE'S A SHORTIE

"AGAINST YOUR BETTER JUDGMENT"?
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, I CALLED YOU!
NN!
YOU TAKE THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY. THERE WAS A SLUMP AND YOU WERE BEING MANLY

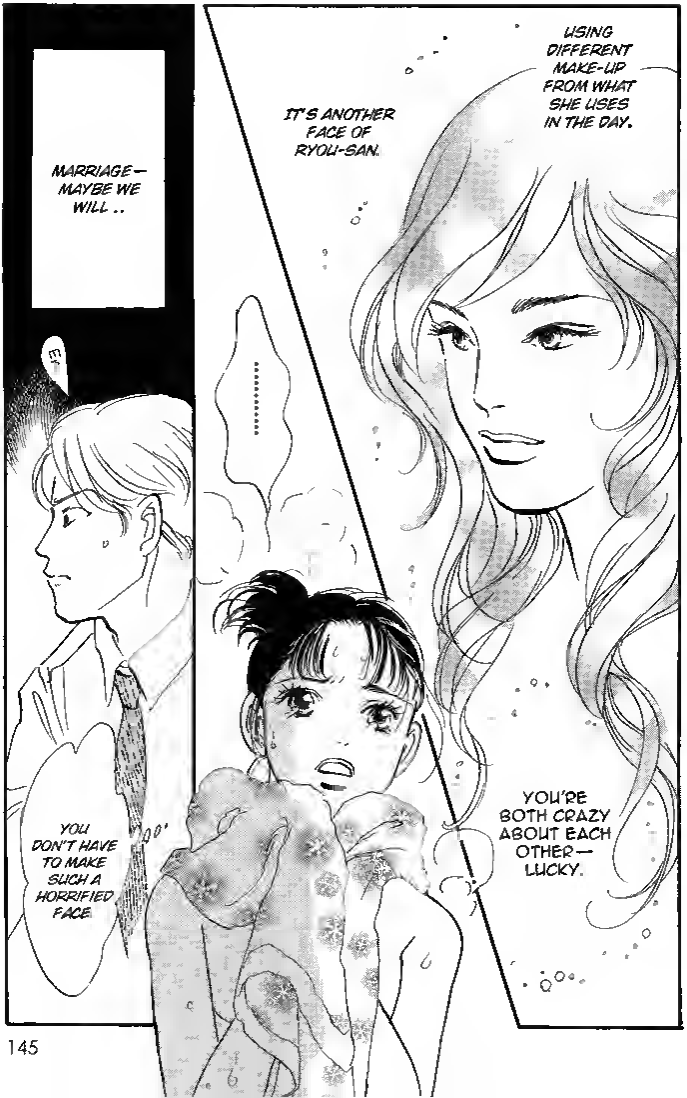

I BELIEVE YOUR ADVICE WAS "GET OVER IT!"
HUH?!
WAS IT REALLY?
BY THAT, I MEANT "BE REASONABLE," YOU KNOW?
EH? IS THAT SO?
PFFT
After that you were dropped from the regulars and you looked like it was the end of the world
YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER— LUCKY
WHAT?!
CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER?!
NO, IT JUST TURNED OUT TO BE NINE YEARS...?

WHAT ABOUT MARRIAGE?
Ba-Bum~~~p!
.....
OH
I'M SORRY I INTRUDED
CLATTER
THANK YOU
AH!
YOU'RE WELCOME
Tatsuya~!
YOU GOTTA COME AGAIN!

HEY
HEY THERE, THAT'S A RICH-LOOKING GUY
SHE'S DONE WELL FOR HERSELF—
DON'T STARE SO MUCH!
SIGH...
WHAT A SCARY WOMAN.
HUH...


KINUE-CHAN, YOU'RE AMAZING!
I'D SHAKE WITH FEAR IF SOMEONE LIKE THAT WAS MY BOSS
SCARY...?
SHE COMES STRAIGHT AT YOU CANDIDLY, HEAD-ON— MAYBE IT IS A BIT SCARY?
BUT THAT'S RYOU-SAN.
IT'S ACTUALLY A KINDNESS.
BUT IT'S NOT BULLYING.
KINUE, DIDN'T YOU USED TO HATE THAT KIND OF PERSON, THE KIND WHO CAN'T READ THE ATMOSPHERE?
I'M NOT SCARED OF RYOU-SAN, YOU KNOW?

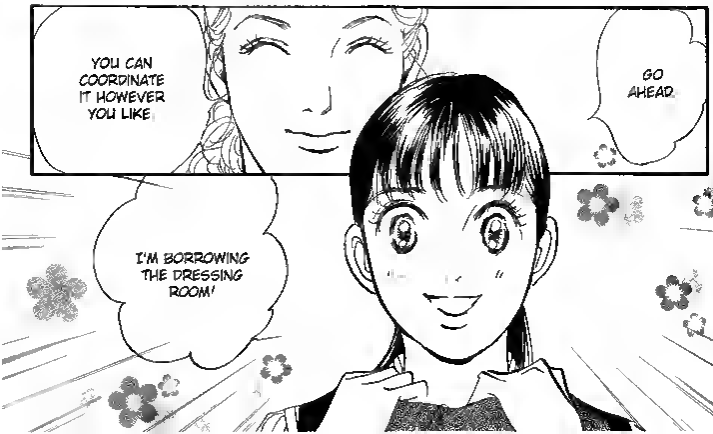
A DRESS WITHOUT ANY ACCESSORIES WILL WEAR SMOOTHLY ON A BEAUTIFUL BODY.
THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT "BMI UNDER 20." THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN ABOUT ANY CLOTHES LOOKING GOOD ON YOU.
A SHAWL THAT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS WOVEN WITH SPIDER SILK, FLOATING...


MARRIAGE— MAYBE WE WILL ..
Er
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A HORRIFIED FACE.
IT'S ANOTHER FACE OF RYOU-SAN.
USING DIFFERENT MAKE-UP FROM WHAT SHE USES IN THE DAY.
YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY ABOUT EACH OTHER— LUCKY.

An actual French company specializing in textiles

ITS DISTINCTIVE FEATURE IS THE BORDEAUX-MIXTURE COLORING.
THE CLOTH EVEN THE GARNERED THE ATTENTION OF PREMIERE VISION *
A VELOUR DRESS, RETAIL PRICE. 27,000 YEN.
SQUISH!
IT IS DRY-CLEANING ONLY

EH?
YOU CAN TRY IT ON YOURSELF.
THAT WAY YOU'LL BE MORE PERSUASIVE WHEN RECOMMENDING IT.
I HOPE SOMEONE TRIES IT ON SOON. IT FEELS LIKE IT'LL SELL OUT FAST.
I REALLY LIKE THIS DRESS. I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE ON ME.


YOU CAN COORDINATE IT HOWEVER YOU LIKE.
GO AHEAD.
I'M BORROWING THE DRESSING ROOM!

IT'S— SO CUTE—♡
THE VELOUR FEELS GOOD ON MY SKIN!
SO SMOOTH.
THE SIZE IS JUST BARELY BIG ENOUGH.

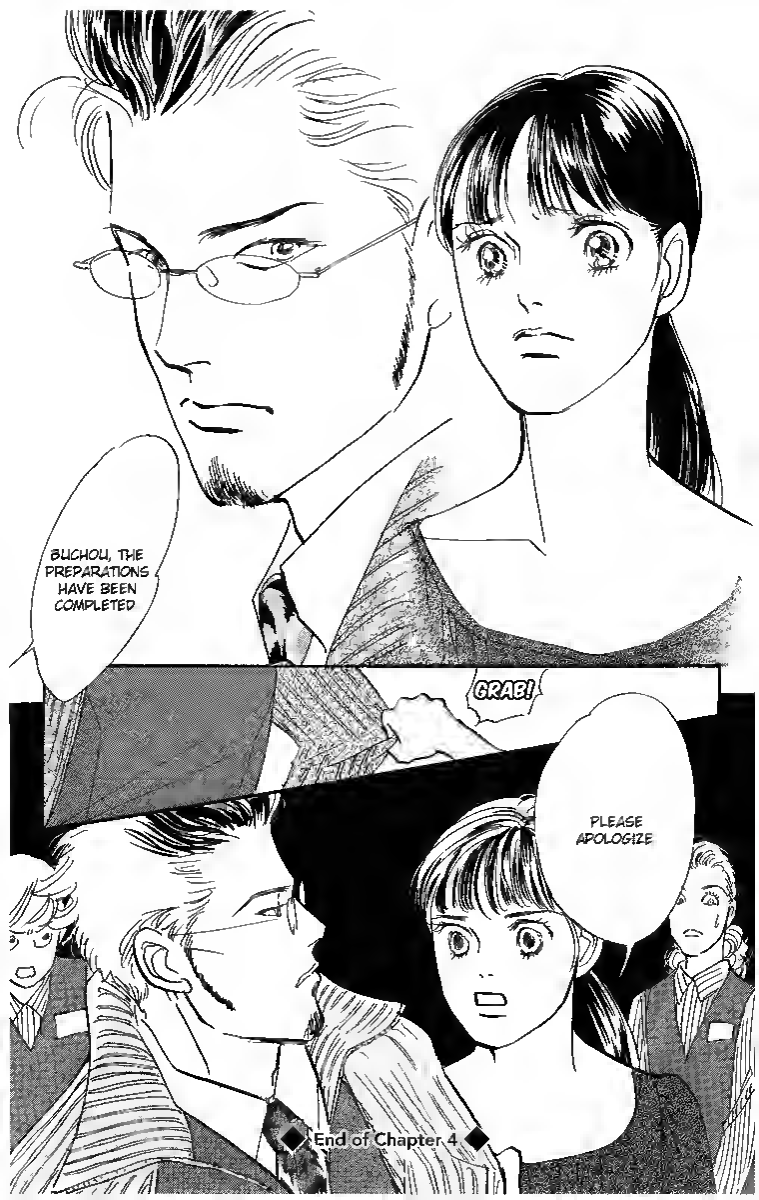
JUMP!
IF I WERE TO WEAR THIS, I WONDER WHAT TATSUYA WOULD SAY..
SHOES..
FLATS!
FLARE!
HEE HEE HEE!

WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP?
I'M TRYING.. ON—
IT'S A LINE EN VOGUE
HUH ?
IT'S CALLED THE "EMPIRE STYLE." IT'S THE FOURTH TIME IT'S BEEN EN VOGUE THE THIRD TIME WAS IN 1804, THE REIGN OF NAPOLEON
THE SECOND TIME WAS IN THE 15TH CENTURY, DURING THE RENAISSANCE
AD 1806
DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF "RENAISSANCE"? TO LIVE AGAIN— A REVIVAL HUMANISM THAT CALLS FOR CIVILIZATION TO RETURN TO GREECE AND ROME
AD 1452
THE THEME WAS THE LIBERATION OF THE SENSES, THE RESPECT OF INDIVIDUALITY AND HUMANITY

JUDGE FOR YOURSELF, OBJECTIVELY, WHETHER OR NOT IT TRULY SUITS YOU.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND? A SONG OF PRAISE FOR HUMANS.
AND THAT LOOKS LIKE A BABYDOLL DRESS OR SOMETHING FROM MATERNITY— IS THAT FASHIONABLE?
THIS IS.. SAID TO BE EN VOGUE
TO MY EYES, YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO IS BEING WORN BY THE CLOTHES..

UH...
THIS YOUNG LADY DOESN'T KNOW HERSELF.
SHE'S A SLAVE TO HER DESIRES THAT CALL TO JUST TRY IT ON, WITHOUT ANY SORT OF JUDGMENT.
SHE CAN'T EVEN SEE WHERE SHE IS HEADING.
MISS MONKEY
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUCHOU*
AND A PLUMP ONE AT THAT.

[1 N. Buchou's a Japanese term for "section manager/chief." It is Miki's position in the company.]



End of Chapter 4

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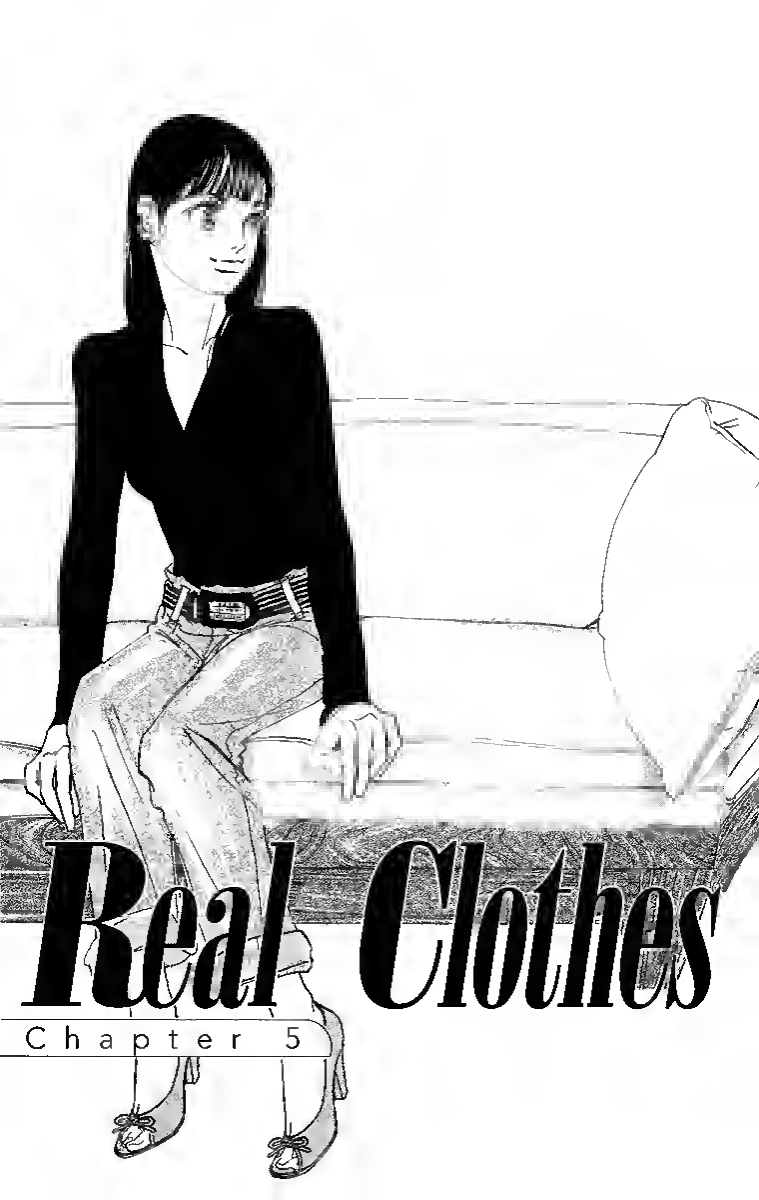


Real Clothes

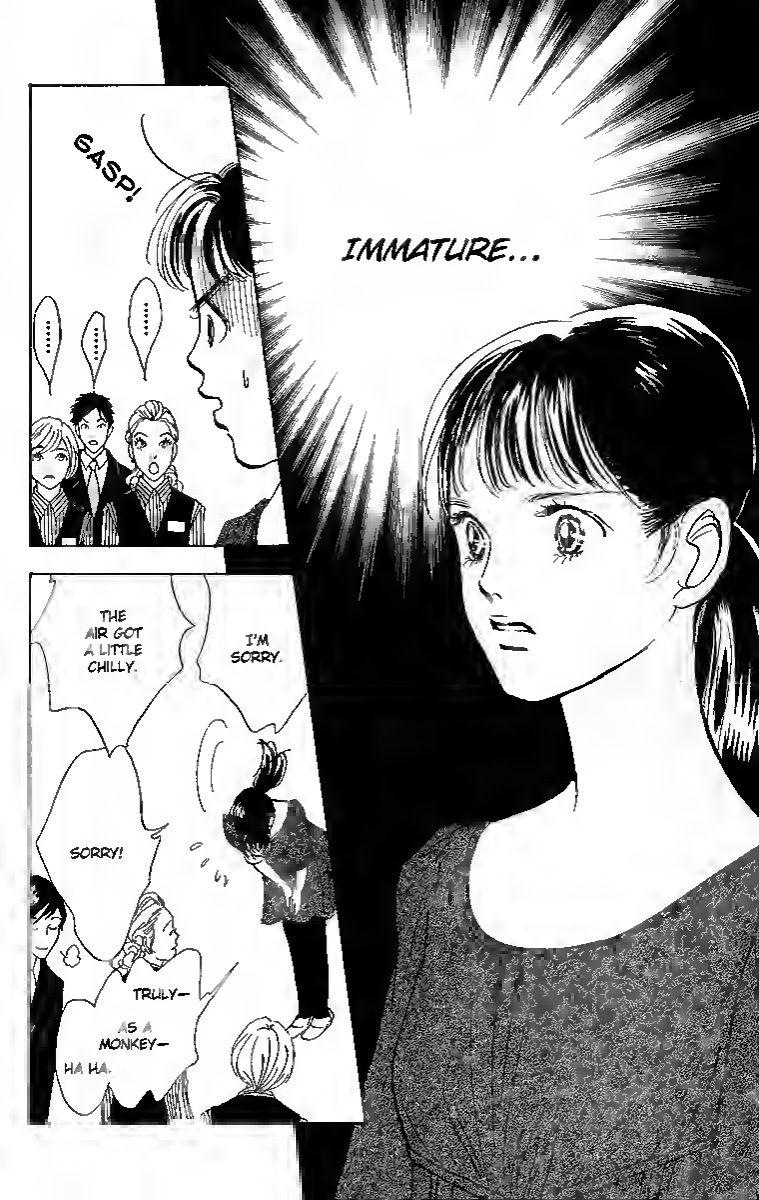
Chapter 5

PLEASE APOLOGIZE
FOR WHAT?

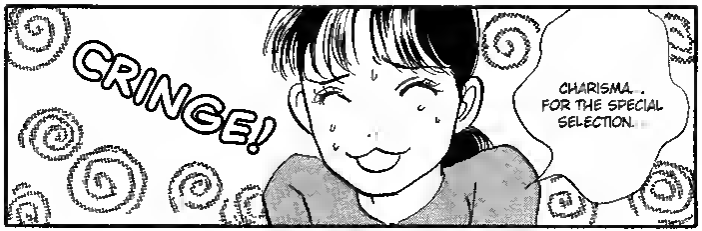
IF YOU HAVE A CRITICISM OR OPINION OF MY JOB PERFORMANCE, I WILL LISTEN TO IT REGARDLESS— HOWEVER,
WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, OR WHERE I'M GOING—
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMMENT ON ANYTHING PERSONAL LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S INSIDE YOU SEEPS INTO YOUR APPEARANCE
THAT'S HOW I CAN TELL THOSE THINGS. BY YOUR APPEARANCE.

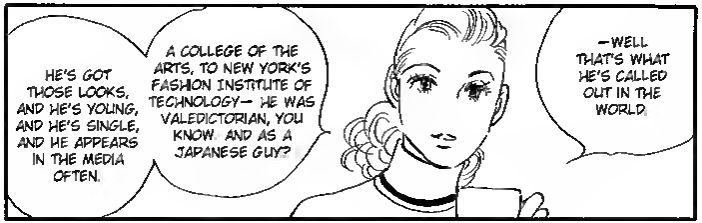
I DON'T THINK APPEARANCE IS ALL THERE IS TO A PERSON.
THAT SAYING IS LIMITED TO PEOPLE WHOSE SUBSTANCE IS UNCERTAIN.
A PERSON WHO DOESN'T ACCEPT THEMSELVES, INCLUDING THEIR APPEARANCE, IS AN IMMATURE HUMAN BEING.

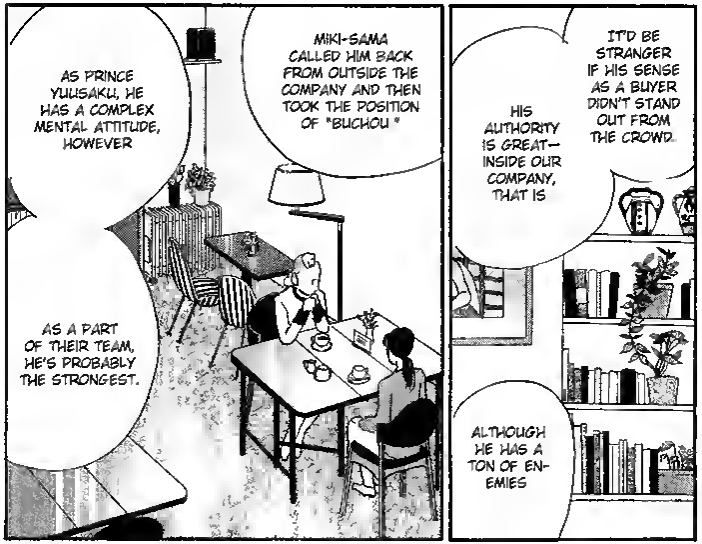
TABUCHI!
YOUR HAND...


GASP!
IMMATURE...
THE AIR GOT A LITTLE CHILLY.
I'M SORRY.
SORRY!
TRULY—
AS A MONKEY—
HA HA.

WHAT THE HELL! ACTING SO HIGH-AND-MIGHTY.
YOU, WHO DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME—
YOU AREN'T QUALIFIED TO SAY THAT KIND OF THING TO ME!!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
"TABUCHI YUUSAKU-SAMA"
IS A "CHARISMATIC BUYER."
ECHIZENYA
THE BUYER FOR THE SPECIAL SELECTION OF LADIES' FASHION ON THE 3RD FLOOR.


CRINGE!
CHARISMA... FOR THE SPECIAL SELECTION...

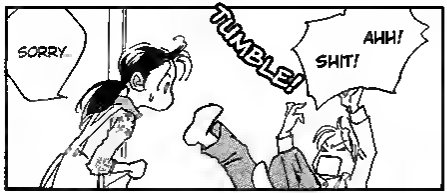

HE'S GOT THOSE LOOKS, AND HE'S YOUNG, AND HE'S SINGLE, AND HE APPEARS IN THE MEDIA OFTEN.
A COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, TO NEW YORK'S FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY— HE WAS VALEDICTORIAN, YOU KNOW. AND AS A JAPANESE GUY?
—WELL THAT'S WHAT HE'S CALLED OUT IN THE WORLD.


AS PRINCE YUUSAKU, HE HAS A COMPLEX MENTAL ATTITUDE, HOWEVER
MIKI-SAMA CALLED HIM BACK FROM OUTSIDE THE COMPANY AND THEN TOOK THE POSITION OF "BUCHOU."
AS A PART OF THEIR TEAM, HE'S PROBABLY THE STRONGEST.
HIS AUTHORITY IS GREAT— INSIDE OUR COMPANY, THAT IS
IT'D BE STRANGER IF HIS SENSE AS A BUYER DIDN'T STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.
ALTHOUGH HE HAS A TON OF EN-EMIES

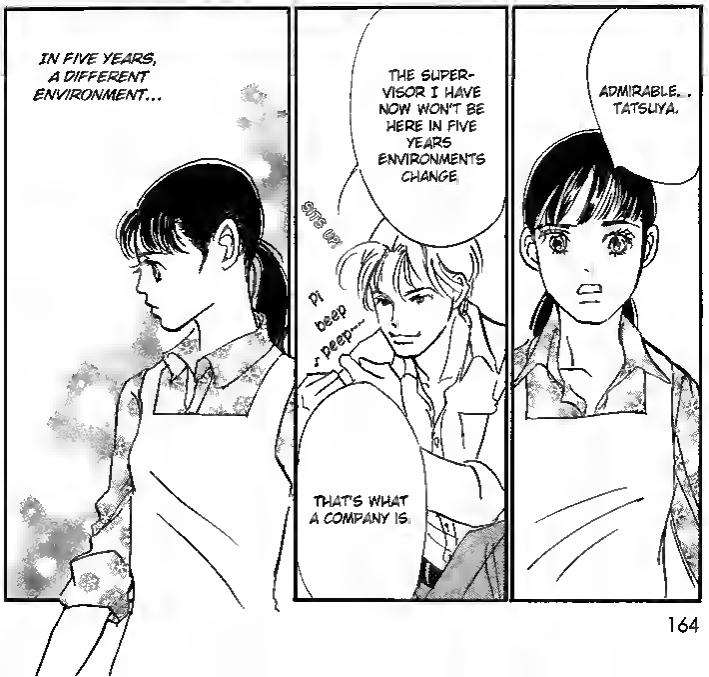
IF SOMEONE WERE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING UNREASONABLE AT YOUR COMPANY,
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
Pi Pi
UH,
HEY

ARRRRGH~! IT SUCKS THAT HE'S GOT NO FAULTS I CAN HIT HIM WITH—!
GRAVEL

HA HA!
I'D KEEP IN MIND THAT IT'S BEING SAID FOR MY SAKE!!
LET IT GO!
Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi
AH!


SORRY
TUMBLE!
AHH!
SHIT!

I'D PATIENTLY ENDURE IT FOR ONE WEEK.
IF A WEEK PASSED AND I WERE STILL FED UP, I'D LOOK PRETTY FOOLISH.
I WOULDN'T COMPLAIN EVEN IF I WERE DRUNK.
SO THEN I'D EXAMINE HOW I WORK ONE MORE TIME

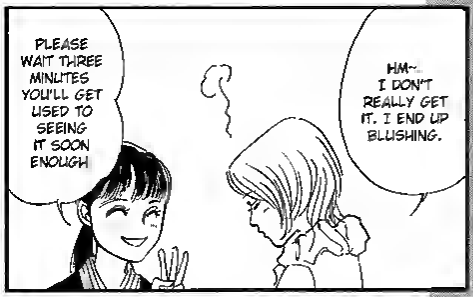

ADMIRABLE... TATSUYA.
THE SUPER-VISOR I HAVE NOW WON'T BE HERE IN FIVE YEARS ENVIRONMENTS CHANGE
SIGHS
PI beep... peep...
THAT'S WHAT A COMPANY IS.
IN FIVE YEARS, A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT...

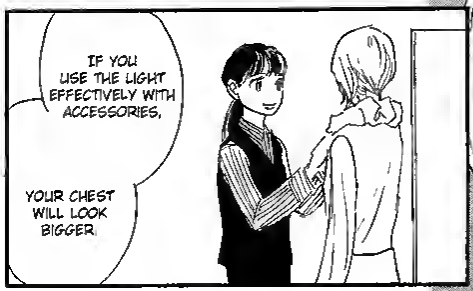
IN FIVE YEARS...
I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE DOING
ENDOZEN~
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SMILING RECENTLY
YOU'LL GET MORE WRINKLES
MM.
MUH...
DO YOUR BEST
ENDURE, THE YOU WHO IS LOSING
GAH...

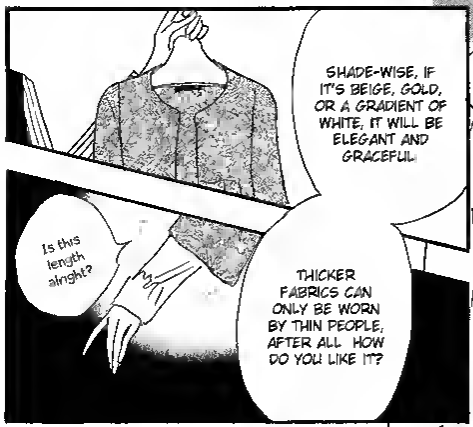
I HAD NEVER IMAGINED WHAT IT'D BE LIKE IN FIVE YEARS...
UM..
YES?
DO YOU HAVE THIS IN A DIFFERENT COLOR?
YES— WE CARRY IT IN NAVY AND BORDEAUX.
A SLENDER AND FRAIL WOMAN...
MAYBE SOMETHING FLASHIER WOULD BE BETTER. LIKE RED... I'M SO THIN AND...

Real Clothes 1

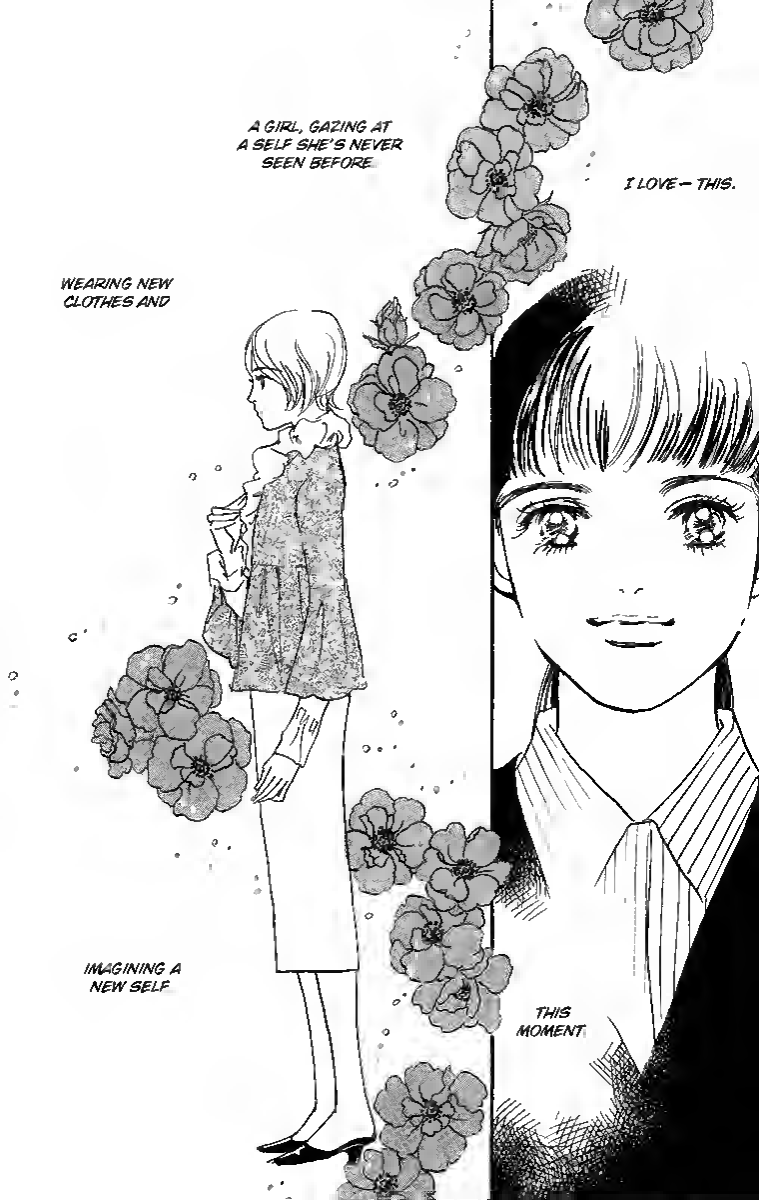
THIS WOMAN— KNOWS WHO SHE IS.
.....
I THINK IT'D BE GOOD IF YOU COULD SHOW OFF YOUR BEAUTIFUL COLLARBONE.
NOW THE FOLLOW-UP.
SOMETHING OVERLY ELEGANT AND FEMININE IS EMBARRASSING.
Frills...?
FRILLS SUIT INTELLECTUAL PEOPLE BEST.
IF YOU WERE TO MAKE AN IMPACT AND BRING OUT THE VOLUME BELOW YOUR BREAST, IT'D BE QUITE ELEGANT.
IF IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE A SIT-DOWN DINNER,
HEE-HEE.
NOT A CHANCE, NOT WITH SUCH A FLAT CHEST UNDER IT.
WHAT TYPE OF SETTING WOULD YOU WEAR THIS IN?
REALLY ?
MAY I TRY IT ON?
GO AHEAD.

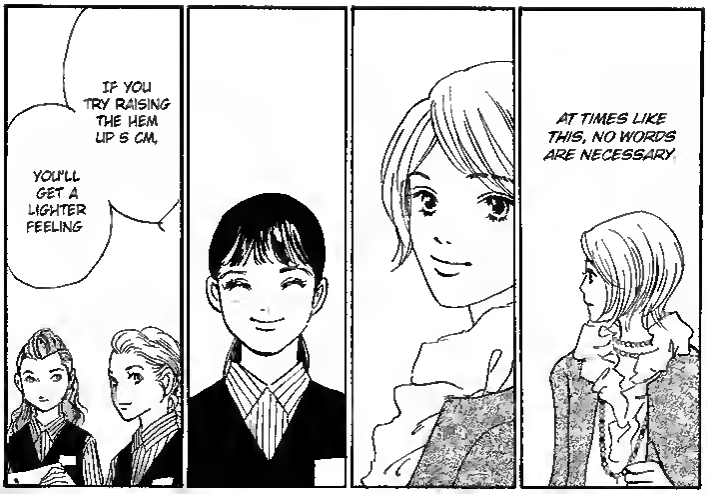

PLEASE WAIT THREE MINUTES YOU'LL GET USED TO SEEING IT SOON ENOUGH
HM~ I DON'T REALLY GET IT. I END UP BLUSHING.

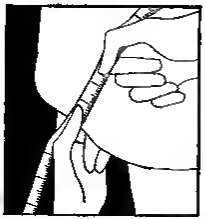

IF YOU USE THE LIGHT EFFECTIVELY WITH ACCESSORIES,
YOUR CHEST WILL LOOK BIGGER.


SHADE-WISE, IF IT'S BEIGE, GOLD, OR A GRADIENT OF WHITE, IT WILL BE ELEGANT AND GRACEFUL.
THICKER FABRICS CAN ONLY BE WORN BY THIN PEOPLE, AFTER ALL. HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?
Is this length alright?

BLUSH...

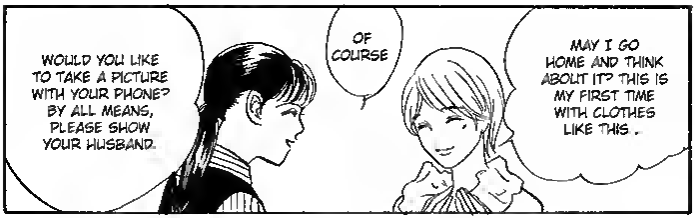

A GIRL, GAZING AT A SELF SHE'S NEVER SEEN BEFORE
I LOVE— THIS.
WEARING NEW CLOTHES AND
IMAGINING A NEW SELF
THIS MOMENT

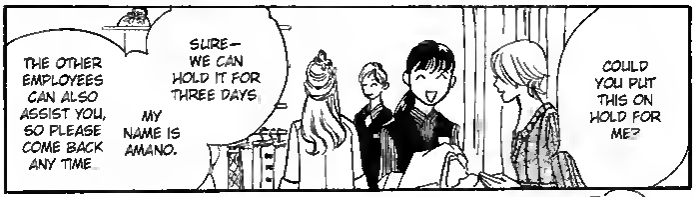

IF YOU TRY RAISING THE HEM UP 5 CM,
YOU'LL GET A LIGHTER FEELING
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, NO WORDS ARE NECESSARY

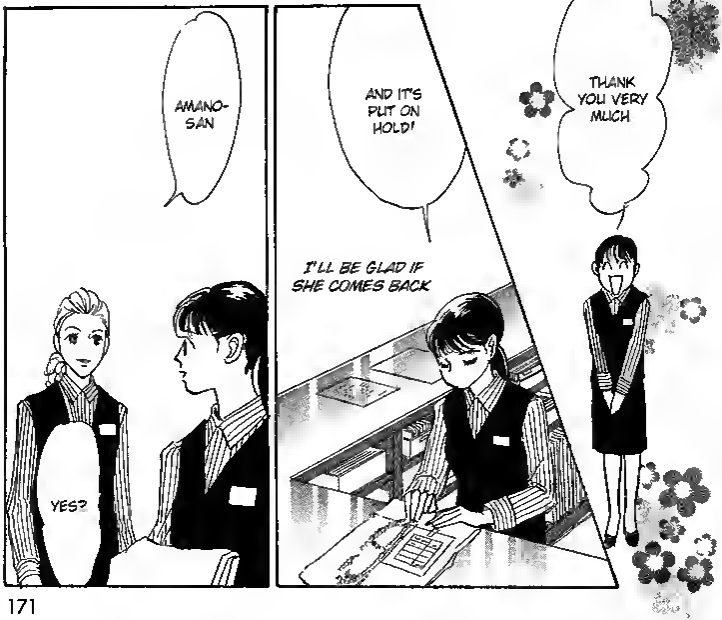

NOT HITTING THE CUSTOMER'S BODY WITH A PIN

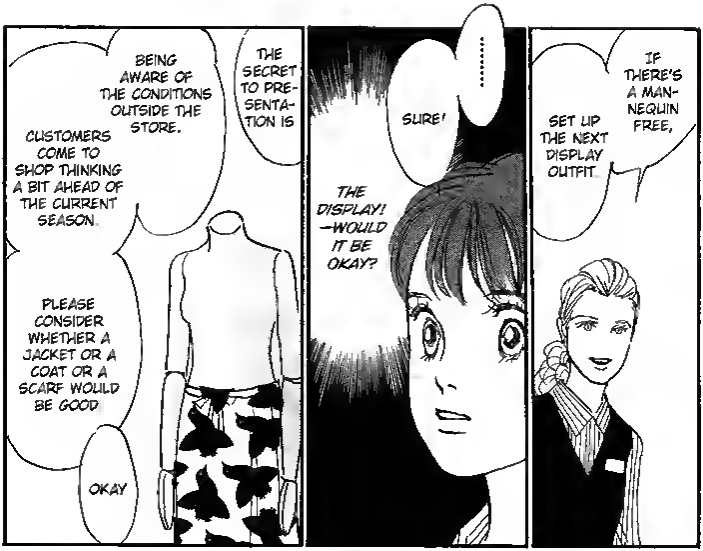
"PIN WORK" IS
PLEASE RELAX
AFTER FITTING IT— CHECK THE FRONT, BOTH SIDES, AND BACK, IN THAT ORDER

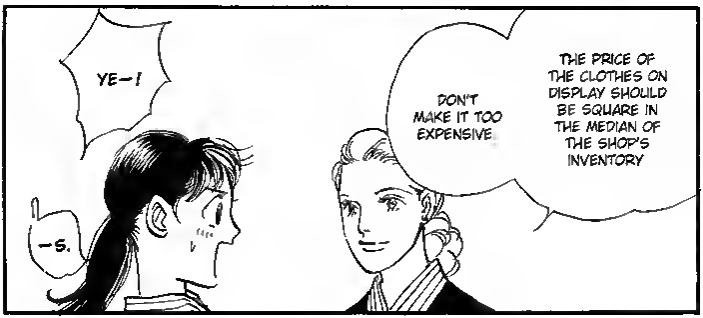
SLIDE!

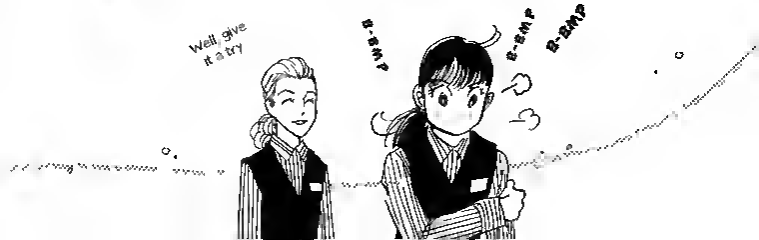

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A PICTURE WITH YOUR PHONE? BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE SHOW YOUR HUSBAND.
OF COURSE
MAY I GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT IT? THIS IS MY FIRST TIME WITH CLOTHES LIKE THIS.


THE OTHER EMPLOYEES CAN ALSO ASSIST YOU, SO PLEASE COME BACK ANY TIME.
SURE— WE CAN HOLD IT FOR THREE DAYS.
MY NAME IS AMANO.
COULD YOU PUT THIS ON HOLD FOR ME?

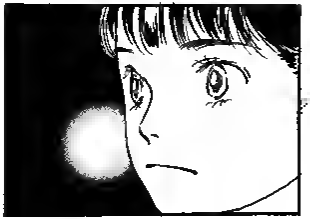

AMANO-SAN
YES?
AND IT'S PUT ON HOLD!
I'LL BE GLAD IF SHE COMES BACK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

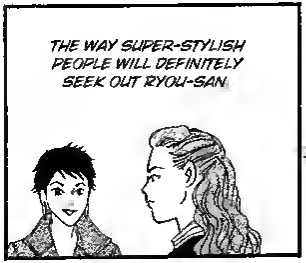

IF THERE'S A MANNEQUIN FREE,
SET UP THE NEXT DISPLAY OUTFIT
.....
SURE!
THE DISPLAY! —WOULD IT BE OKAY?
THE SECRET TO PRESENTATION IS
BEING AWARE OF THE CONDITIONS OUTSIDE THE STORE.
CUSTOMERS COME TO SHOP THINKING A BIT AHEAD OF THE CURRENT SEASON.
PLEASE CONSIDER WHETHER A JACKET OR A COAT OR A SCARF WOULD BE GOOD
OKAY

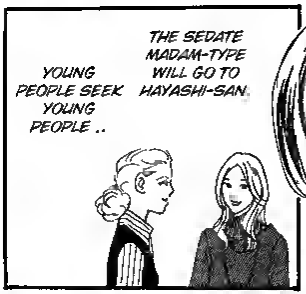

THE PRICE OF THE CLOTHES ON DISPLAY SHOULD BE SQUARE IN THE MEDIAN OF THE SHOP'S INVENTORY
DON'T MAKE IT TOO EXPENSIVE
YE—!
—S.


Well give it a try
E-EMP
E-EMP
E-EMP

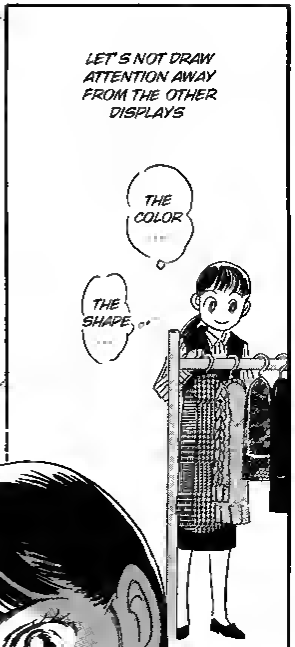
Real Clothes 1







WHO WILL I COORDINATE THIS FOR—!?

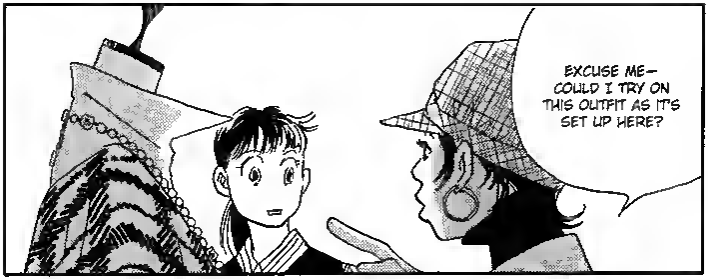


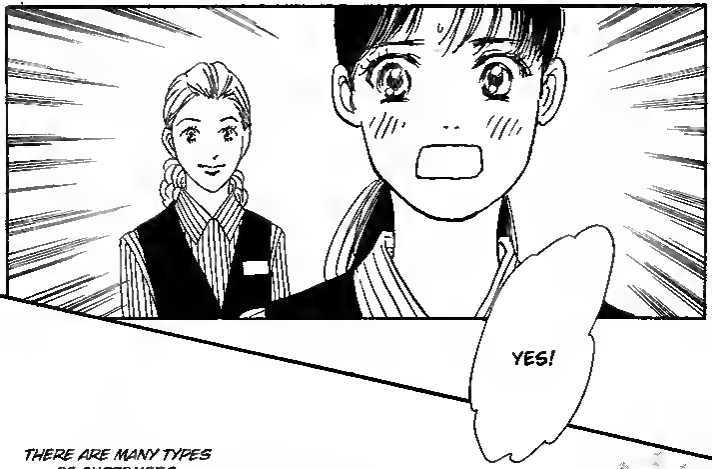
WITH STANDARD ITEMS—
CLOTHES THAT REFRESH YOU AND AREN'T SCARY, CLOTHES THAT DON'T FLIRT.
—YET
PEOPLE WHO ARE A BIT PLAIN OR A BIT TROUBLED
IT'S NOT THAT THEY WANT TO STAND OUT.
BUT THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE SEARCHING FOR BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES.
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES!!

WOW.
THAT'S BEAUTIFUL.
AH!
THIS WOULD BE POPULAR WITH GUYS.
THE BELT MIGHT LOOK PRETTIER IN BROWN!
I WANT TO WEAR THAT.
ALTHOUGH IT'S A BIT PLAIN

SURE..!
THE DISPLAY HAS BECOME THE TALK OF THE EMPLOYEES.
IT'S A GO!
AH.
WHAT A SUR-PRISE.
THE ARRANGE-MENT OF COLORS IS LOVELY
THE PURPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TWEED PANTS, AND THE SWEATER IS...
AH
COME OVER HERE A SEC

Real Clothes 1





THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF CUSTOMERS.

PEOPLE WHO PUT IN ONLY A BIT OF EFFORT.

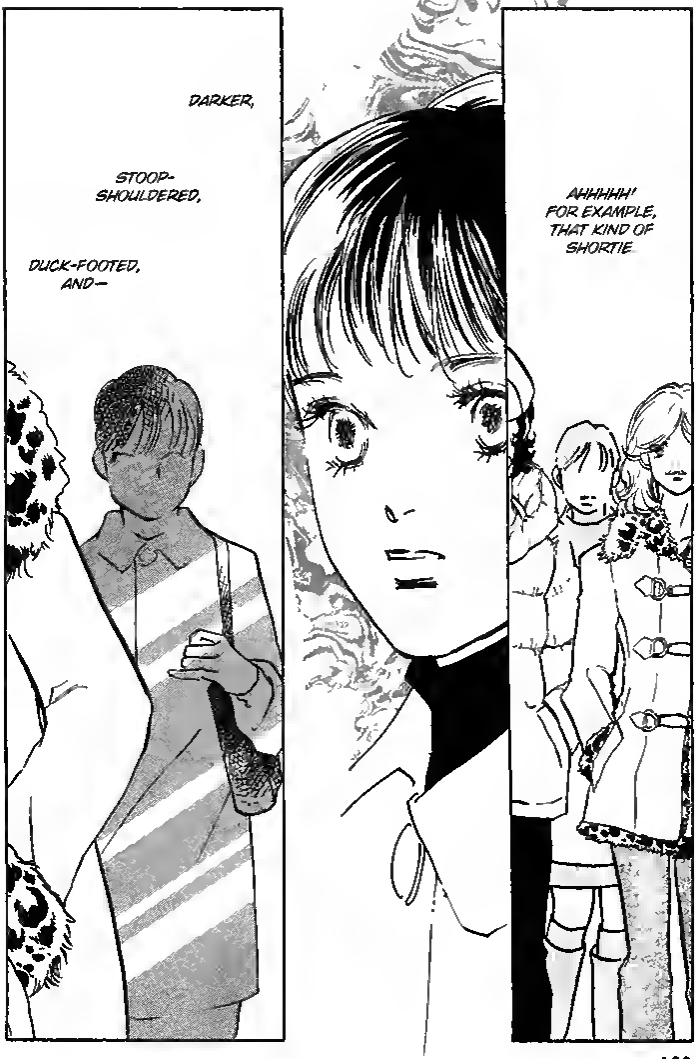
PEOPLE WHO ARE DECISIVE.

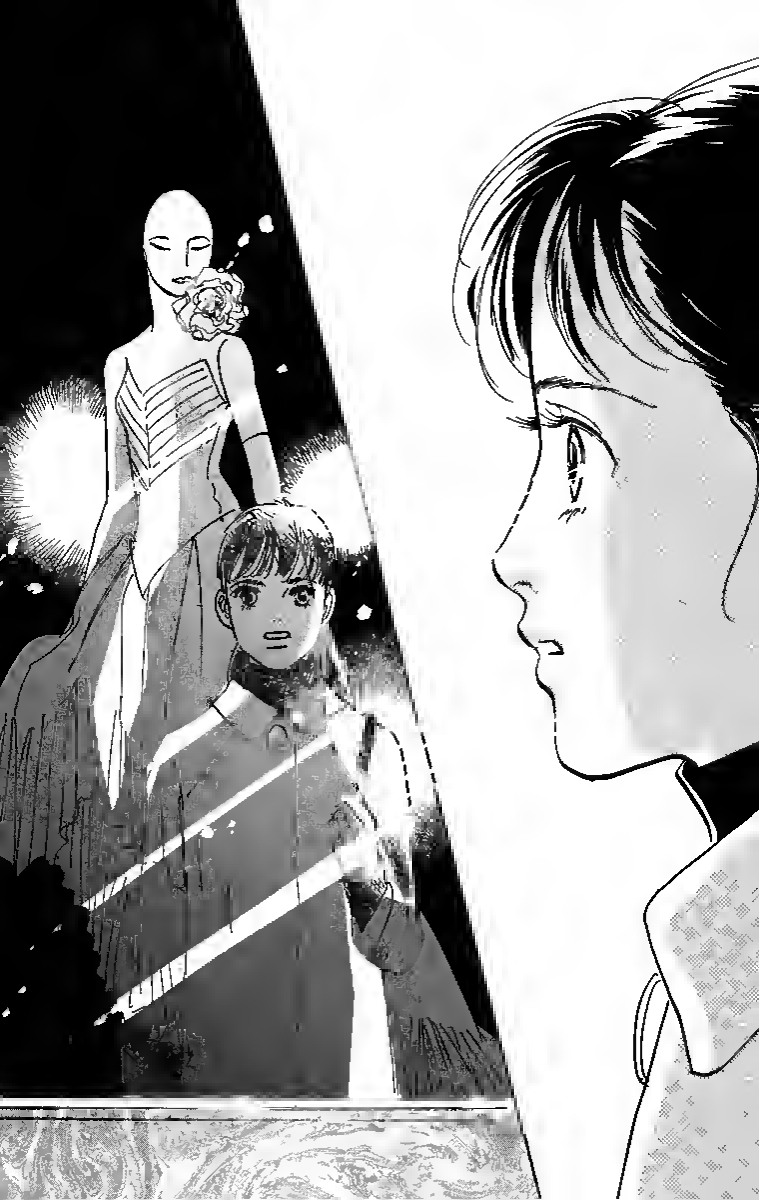
PEOPLE WHO ARE CAREFUL, BUT ARE NOT QUITE GOOD AT IT.

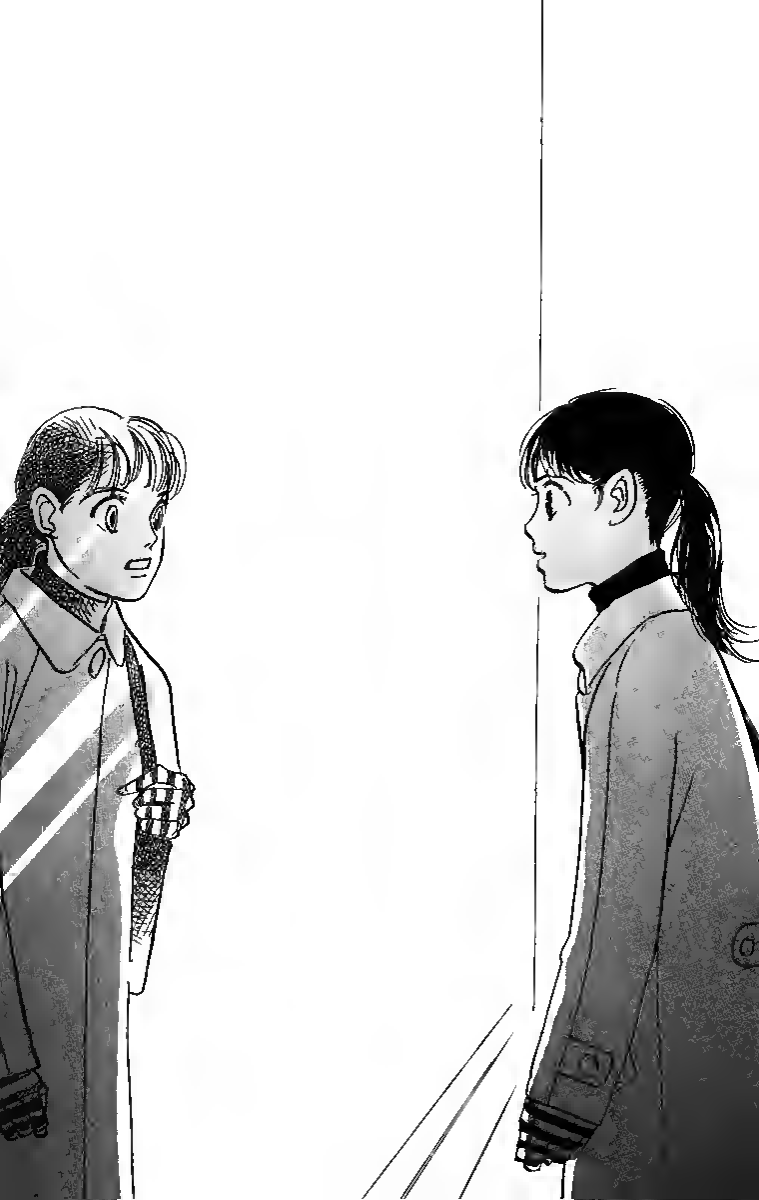
BRANDS, MODES, FASHION BOOMS—

—MORE THAN THAT,

I WANT TO HELP WOMEN SHINE.
IT SHOULD BE THAT PERSON'S SELF WHO SHINES.
I WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE WHO PUT IN ONLY A BIT OF EFFORT LOOK STYLISH!!


DARKER,
STOOP-SHOULDERED,
DUCK-FOOTED, AND—
AHHHHH! FOR EXAMPLE, THAT KIND OF SHORTIE





◇ End of Chapter 5 ◆

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